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Shell guide to LIFE BY THE ROAD



Painted by John Leigh Pemberton


Roadsides have their own special life, partly because they are a domestic wilderness most of us don't invade, partly (for the plants) because traffic and roadmen keep the verges "open" and specially suitable for plants which can stand the hazards of roadside existence more easily than they can stand competition. So along verges you find MUGWORT (1), a plant with a magic reputation round the world which may first have entered a bare and desolate Britain after the retreat of the glaciers, GREATER CELANDINE (2), commonest near villages, DWARF ELDER OR DANEWORT (3), a roadside species throughout Europe and rough HORSE RADISH (4), escaped from gardens, also SILVERWEED (5), which can put up with plenty of treading.

DOG ROSES (6),—notice the Bedeguar or Robin's Pinchusion on the Dog Rose caused by a gall-wasp (6a)—form part of the hedge cover for the summer TURTLE DOVES (7, 7a), which often fly down to the clear surface of the road, and for the YELLOWHAMMERS (cock 8a hen 8b). HEDGEHOGS snuffle and crawl from the tangle (9a, 9b, 9c), too often to be crushed by cars. WEASLES (10) as well find plenty of game along the roads, especially field mice.

NOTE: All the items shown in this picture would not of course be found in one place at one time.



Shell's series of monthly "NATURE STUDIES: Fossils, Insects and Reptiles", which gave so many people pleasure last year, is published in book form by Phoenix House Ltd. at 7/6 The Shell Guide to "Flowers of the Countryside" and Shell's "NATURE STUDIES: Birds and Beasts" are also available at 7/6 each. On sale at bookshops and bookstalls.

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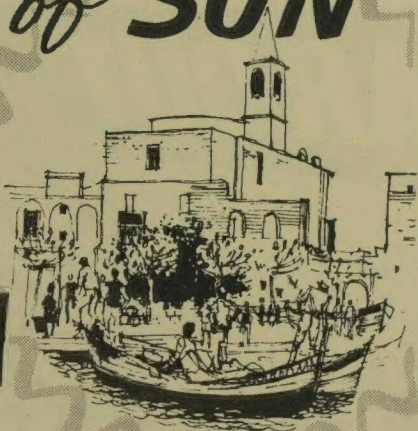


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His Future?

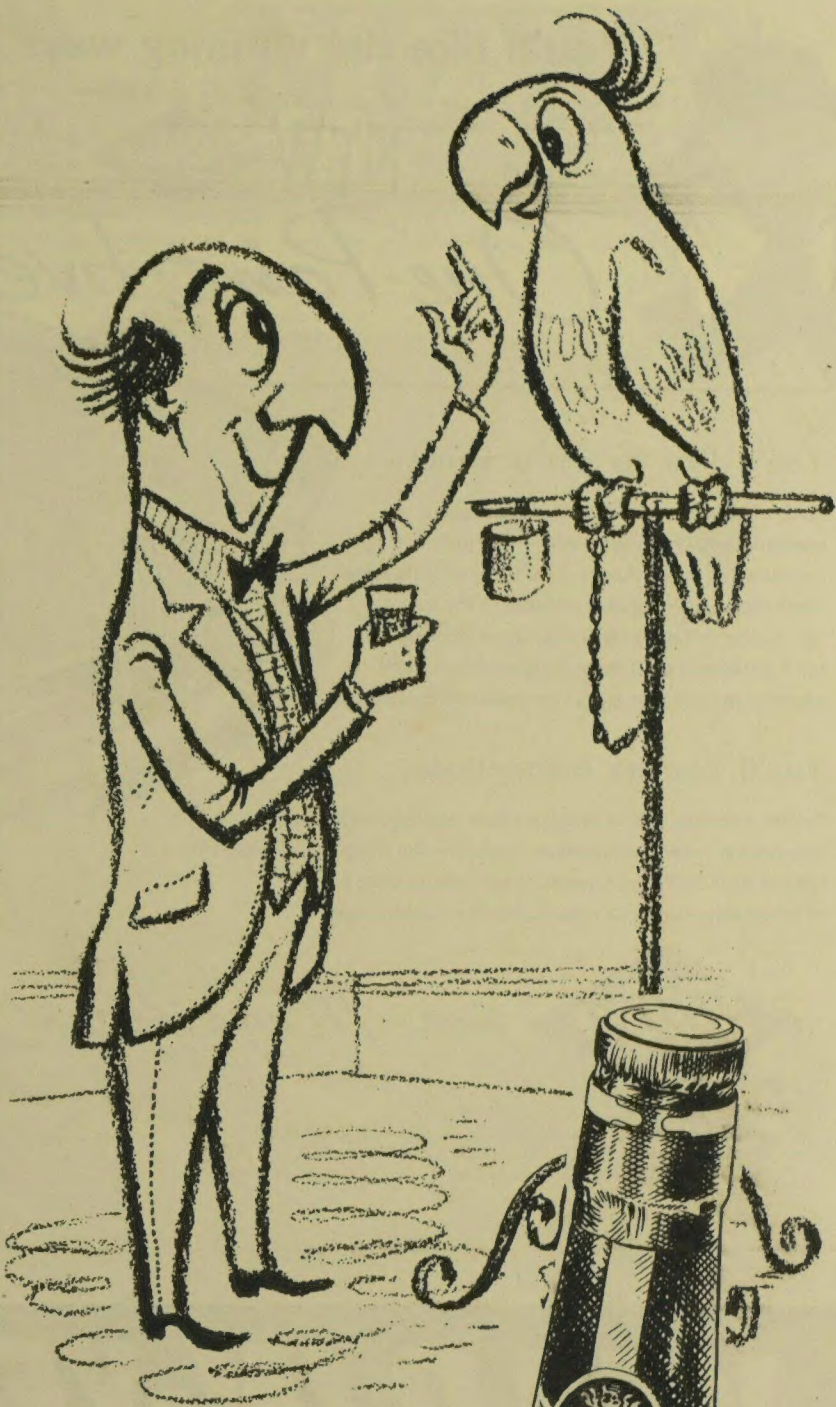
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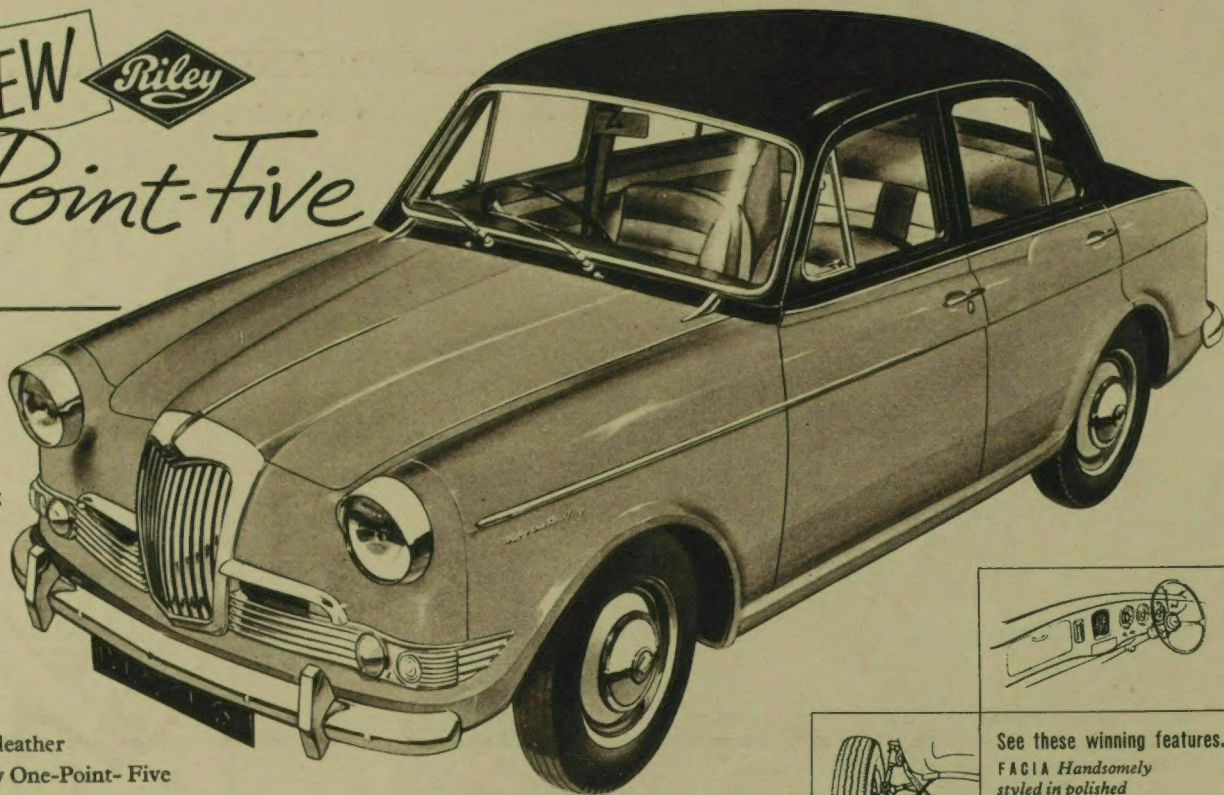
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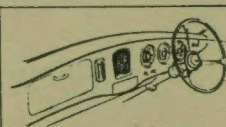
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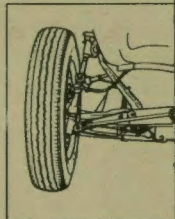
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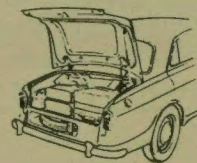


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SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1958.



AN ARCHÆOLOGIST'S PARADISE—OR NIGHTMARE? THE 100,000 UNEXCAVATED BURIAL MOUNDS OF BAHREIN.

Bahrein, that island in the Persian Gulf which is now known to all as one of the newly rich oil states of the Middle East, has long been known to archæologists as the site of innumerable burial mounds, believed to belong to the Second Millennium B.C.; and it was thought that in prehistoric times the island was simply a burial ground for peoples living on the mainland of Arabia. Since 1953, however, a Danish expedition working under Professor P. V. Glob has been excavating there and has discovered a rich settlement

and a succession of temples. Among the objects found some point towards the Early Dynastic culture of Ur, others to the Indus Valley civilisation; and it would seem that Bahrein, 5000 years ago, was a prosperous *entrepot* between these great civilisations and may perhaps be identified with the Dilmun mentioned in Sumerian documents. The first article on the Danish discoveries, by Professor Glob, appears in this issue; and it will be followed in a later number by one on other aspects of ancient Bahrein, by Mr. G. Bibby.



By ARTHUR BRYANT.

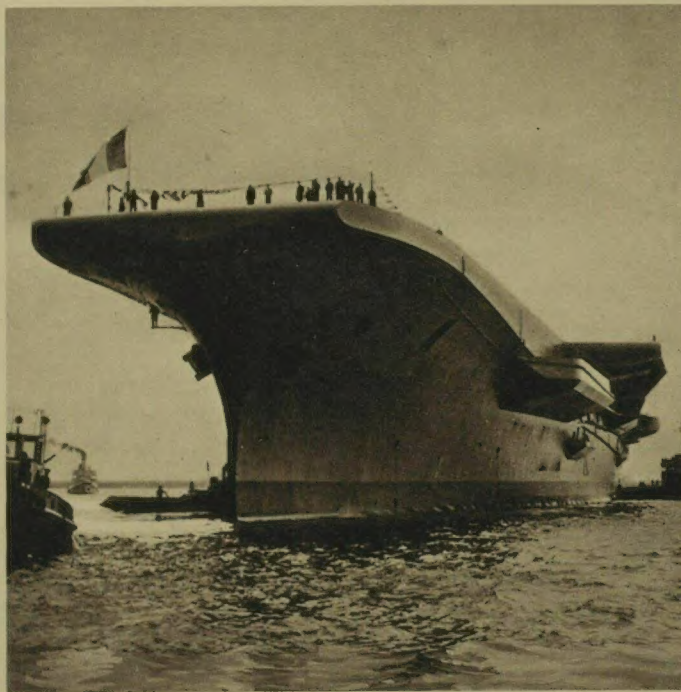
WHEN I was a boy there used to hang over my father's library mantelpiece a series of Victorian engravings, each devoted to a particular year and showing pictorially its principal events. These were political, sporting and social and depicted a fine range of orating politicians in frock-coats and vast Gladstonian collars, galloping race-horses, sportsmen and terriers, ballet girls in spangles, circus performers, steam-engines, ships and successful inventions, and various species of foreigners. It would be interesting to look through these framed prints again and try to form a balanced historical estimate over the much greater number of years that now divide us from that time as to how far the events selected represented the really significant events of each particular year. I don't imagine they would be far wrong, for contemporary judgment of what is important or unimportant has, in my belief, more effect on the course of history than many academic historians suppose. For, after all, what contemporaries think, however foolishly or mistakenly, does help very materially to dictate the course of history. If, for instance, the British people had not been scared by the popular Press into believing that the Kaiser's "dreadnought" building policy in the early 1900's constituted a threat to their existence, the 1914-18 war might well have taken a different course and Imperial Germany might have dictated the Versailles treaties instead of France, America and Britain. Had, on the other hand, the illusion of disarmament and "collective security" not swept the war-weary British people's popular and emotional thinking in the 1920's, Hitler might never have got any further in his career of destruction than the Brown House in Munich. The threads that make the woof of history are so many that it is impossible to be certain that any particular event has been dictated by any particular circumstance. Yet one can be sure that in a parliamentary and democratic community current opinion is a most important factor.

In 1956 the events leading up to our intervention in the Israeli-Egyptian conflict and our subsequent withdrawal from Suez were, taking contemporary opinion and feeling as a guide, the obvious political highlight of the year. In 1957 the belated struggle to halt the accelerating march of internal inflation took its place, with the shock administered by the successful Russian satellite launchings as a close runner-up. What, one wonders, will be the main political preoccupation of the British people in 1958? The struggle against inflation at home will, one imagines, continue and, one hopes, prove successful; the reorientation in international and military thinking caused by Russia's triumphs in inter-continental rocketry will certainly loom large, so large that it may well come in the course of the year to dominate every political other thought of both Britain and Europe. Already it has transformed the character of the N.A.T.O. alliance; the wealthy and apparently all-powerful United States, hitherto the selfless, though not wholly popular, benefactor of the other N.A.T.O. States, has become a suitor to them for bases from which to defend its own threatened homeland against the long-range missiles which a militant and crusading Russia will undoubtedly be able to command in a few years' or even months' time. And except in the case of Great Britain it does not look, at the time of writing, as though it is going to be a very successful suitor, self-interest or supposed self-interest proving, as usual where nations are concerned, a more powerful factor than gratitude.

My own view, for what it is worth, is that it is a very mistaken idea of self-interest for any

Western nation that wishes to preserve its independence and avoid the fate of Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and the former Baltic States to suppose that it can hope to do so save in the closest and most trusting conjunction with the United States. Without the latter the N.A.T.O. States could no more withstand the might of Russia than Poland could withstand that of Germany in 1939. No alliance of second-rate Powers has ever been able to resist the united might of a single major Power armed for and set on world domination without the leadership and cement of some resisting major Power to give such alliance direction and cohesion. Without that, sectional fears and hesitations will render any international alliance impotent, whatever the joint total of its populations, resources and military forces. If the United States can only be defended during the next few years by rocket bases on, say, West German or Norwegian soil, it is quite certain that, if Russia intends aggression—and she

A NEW FRENCH AIRCRAFT CARRIER.



THE BIGGEST FRENCH WARSHIP TO BE LAUNCHED SINCE 1939: THE 22,000-TON AIRCRAFT CARRIER CLEMENCEAU LEAVING DRY-DOCK AT BREST.

On December 21 the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* was launched at Brest in the presence of M. Poher, Secretary of State for the Navy, and of M. Michel Clemenceau, the son of the great statesman after whom the ship is named. She is the third ship to be so named but the first to reach the water. She will carry sixty aircraft and will be fitted with two steam catapults and landing mirrors; and will have a speed of 32 knots. A sister ship named *Foch* is being built at St. Nazaire.

is certainly armed for it—West Germany's or Norway's only hope of escaping such aggression is by giving the United States the means of defending itself and, by doing so, deterring or, at worst, resisting that aggression. Yet it is only natural that a small and ill-armed nation in close proximity to Russia's frontiers should try to avoid at all costs the stationing of the deterrent weapons of an ally on its soil for fear that their presence will constitute a pretext for the very invasion that their existence is intended to deter. This fear under present circumstances could easily disintegrate N.A.T.O. and result in the withdrawal of a disillusioned United States into its traditional isolationism, leaving Europe, including this country, powerless to resist the advance of Russia and militant Communism. All the efforts of Soviet diplomacy and propaganda are at the present moment being directed to this end. And they may well succeed. Even in this country there are already many voices being raised against the

policy of allowing American rocket-bases on our soil. In other words, in seeking to base the future defence of the West on medium-range rockets sited in the territories of her smaller allies and dependents until she can match Russia's long-range rockets with long-range rockets of her own, the United States, though adopting the only effective military course apparently at present open to her, may well be pursuing a political will-o'-the-wisp. Whatever the logic of her arguments, fear and their own dependence on domestic democratic opinion may make it impossible for America's European allies to meet her military wishes. In that case N.A.T.O. will dissolve and the door will be wide open for Russia's advance unless an alternative military policy is available for the West. For once Russia's inter-continental rockets are in position in major force and armed with atomic warheads, America's shorter-ranged rockets, if sited in the Western Hemisphere only, can no longer act as a deterrent to prevent war and defend the West. Yet it happens that the existence of another Russian threat, every whit as grave as that of the inter-continental ballistic weapon, may at the eleventh hour turn the West's military policy of deterrence from a politically impossible direction into a far more practicable one, and one, moreover, which may militarily prove far more effective. In the latest edition of "Jane's Fighting Ships"—significantly enough the Jubilee one—it is revealed that the Russian Navy is being equipped with atomic-powered submarines large enough to carry intermediate-range ballistic rockets, each 70 ft. long, over 50 tons in weight and fitted with thermo-nuclear warheads with a radius of over 1500 miles. By 1961, it is also stated, Russia will possess no fewer than 700 submarines. "The largest of these are regarded by the Russian Navy as their capital ships of the future in place of their battleships now discarded." Nuclear-powered and able to fire from invisible and constantly moving points on the sea's surface guided missiles with atomic warheads at any point, however far inland, both in this island and in the United States, the significance of the building of such vessels is far greater even than that of Russia's space satellites. Unless we and our naval allies answer that challenge we and ours will soon lie wholly at the Kremlin's mercy. Answer we must, or war will be certain and our doom and enslavement with it. And in answering we and the United States, sea Powers by tradition, geography and hereditary instinct, can reply to the challenge of the Russian admirals in kind. What they can threaten or do, we can threaten or do in return. We thought in our folly that with the coming of aircraft as the

major—but, as the event is beginning to show, temporary—dominating weapon in war, the days of navies, including our own, were numbered. We were wrong. The defence against Soviet aggression and the deterrent against another war turn on our being strong and able to strike back at an aggressor from the sea. What Blackstone, the lawyer, wrote of us and our political and legal liberties 200 years ago still remains true:

"... The Royal Navy of England hath ever been its greatest defence and ornament; it is its ancient and natural strength; the floating bulwark of the island." What is true of Britain is true of the whole West. We are sea Powers, or should be, and our freedom sprang from, and still depends on, the sea. If we begin to realise that in 1958, and begin to realise it in time, 1958 may be both a saving point and a turning point in the world's history.

* "Jane's Fighting Ships, 1957-58." (Sampson Low, Marston and Co.)

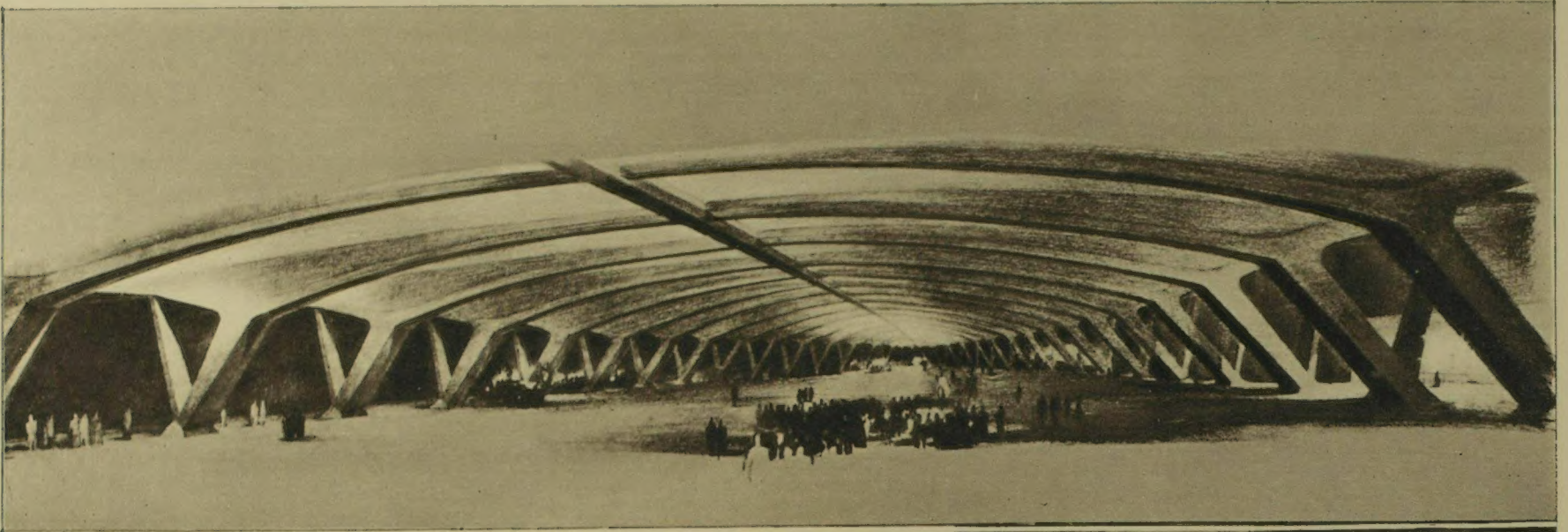


LIKE A LATE-RENAISSANCE "ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS": THE CHRISTMAS CRIB AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

The Christmas Crib at St. Paul's Cathedral is always one of the most interesting features of the Londoner's Christmas season; and this year's crib has a pleasing character all its own. It simulates one of those late-Renaissance pictures which appear as glimpses between rich curtains; and echoes, without copying, the Poussin "Adoration of the Shepherds" which has just been acquired by the National Gallery (and which was reproduced in colour in our issue of December 15, 1956). The crib, which we reproduce above—and in which the figures are about half life size—was designed as a whole by

Lord Mottistone, Surveyor to the Fabric of St. Paul's Cathedral, and executed by the Clerk of the Works Department of the Cathedral. The picture and the carrying-out of the basic idea are by the artist Mr. Brian Thomas, and the figures are the work of Mother Maribel, the Mother Superior of the Church of England Convent at Wantage. The marble Corinthian pillar on the right is one of the Wren pillars which formerly supported the organ when it was placed across the chancel-arch in time past. These pillars, which are of great beauty, had been in store for some time.

LOURDES—THE CENTENARY: SCENES IN THE TOWN AND A NEW BASILICA.



TO PROVIDE A ROOFED PLACE OF WORSHIP FOR THE RECORD CROWDS OF PILGRIMS EXPECTED THIS YEAR: THE HUGE UNDERGROUND BASILIQUE ST. PIE X—AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION.



WORSHIPPERS AND PILGRIMS: A VIEW OF ONE OF THE MANY HUGE OPEN-AIR CONGREGATIONS WHICH ARE TO BE SEEN IN LOURDES THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER MONTHS EACH YEAR.



A HALLOWED PLACE FOR MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS: THE HEALING SHRINE IN THE GROTTO WHERE ST. BERNADETTE HAD HER VISIONS OF THE VIRGIN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN 1858.



ONE OF THE NUMBERLESS SICK WHO COME TO LOURDES SEEKING A CURE. ON THIS LITTLE BOY'S PILLOW IS A LABEL INDICATING THE HOSPITAL WHERE HE IS BEING CARED FOR.

THIS year marks the centenary of the Appearances of the Virgin Mary to St. Bernadette in Lourdes, and large-scale preparations have been undertaken in the town to cater for the very large numbers of pilgrims expected during the coming months. Since fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, the daughter of a miller, claimed to have been granted the revelation of the healing shrine, the numbers of pilgrims have increased to huge proportions. In 1956 some 3,000,000 were reported to have visited Lourdes, and this year over twice this number are awaited. Outstanding among the preparations being undertaken is the huge new underground Basilique St. Pie X, illustrated above, which is being built near the old Basilica and Church of the Rosary.



THE BIRTHPLACE OF ST. BERNADETTE: THE HOUSE WHERE BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS, THE DAUGHTER OF A MILLER, WAS BORN ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN YEARS AGO.

LOURDES—CENTENARY PREPARATIONS, AND SCENES FAMILIAR TO PILGRIMS.



IN A HOUSE AT BARTRES WHERE ST. BERNADETTE SPENT SOME TIME DURING AN ILLNESS IN HER CHILDHOOD: PART OF THE SIMPLE, RUSTIC KITCHEN.



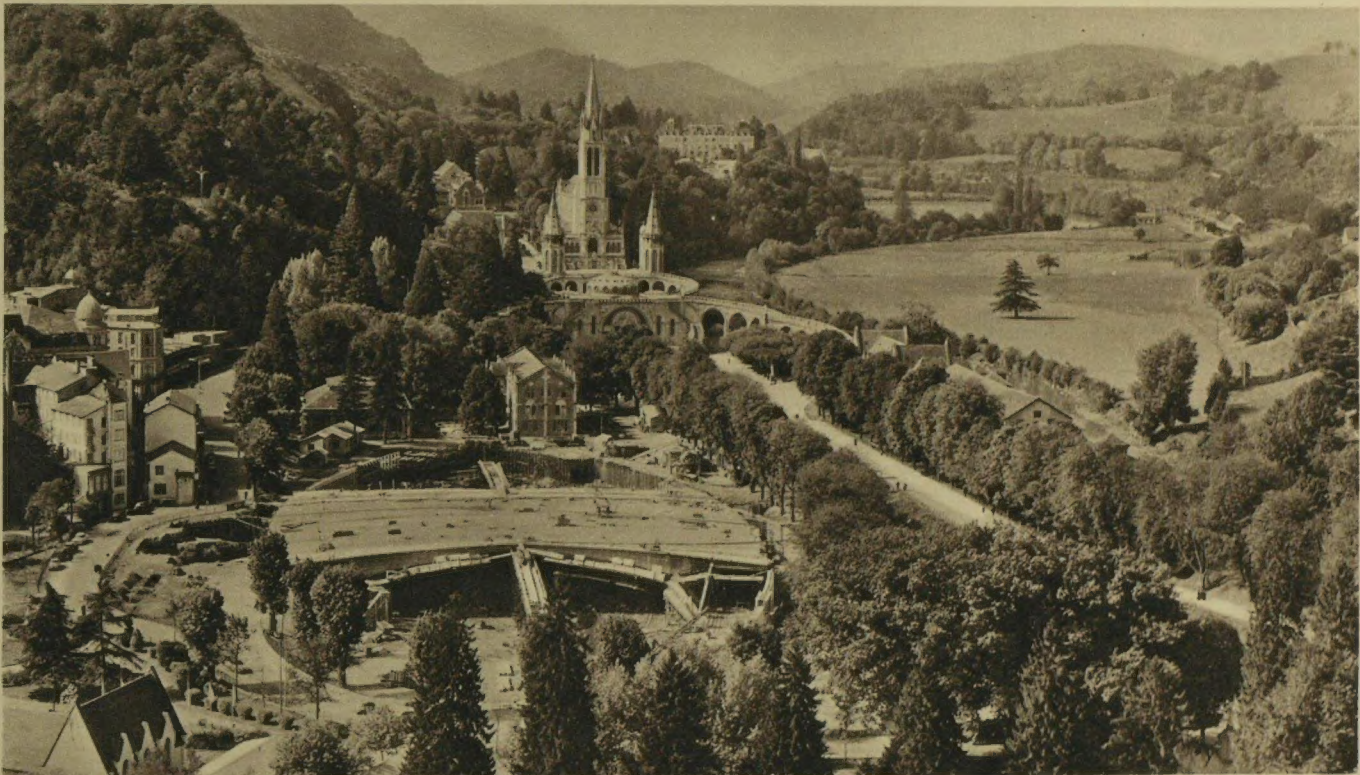
THE OFFERING OF WORSHIPPERS AND THE SICK: SOME OF THE MANY CANDLES WHICH ARE CONSTANTLY TO BE SEEN BURNING IN THE SACRED PLACES OF LOURDES.



A SCENE WELL KNOWN TO ST. BERNADETTE: ANOTHER PART OF THE KITCHEN OF THE HOUSE WHERE SHE WAS NURSED DURING AN ILLNESS.

THE accommodation at Lourdes and the many other arrangements made annually for the large numbers of pilgrims are being specially extended to meet the multitudes expected this year, the centenary of the appearances of the Virgin to St. Bernadette and the revelation of the healing waters. Near the Basilica and the Church of the Rosary, which can be seen in the photograph on the right, is being constructed out of modern building materials a huge new place of worship, the Basilique St. Pie X. When completed, this will be hidden from view outside, and will be given the appearance of an underground building. The new church is in the shape of an ellipse, its longest diameter being 201 metres, and is designed to hold a congregation of about 20,000.

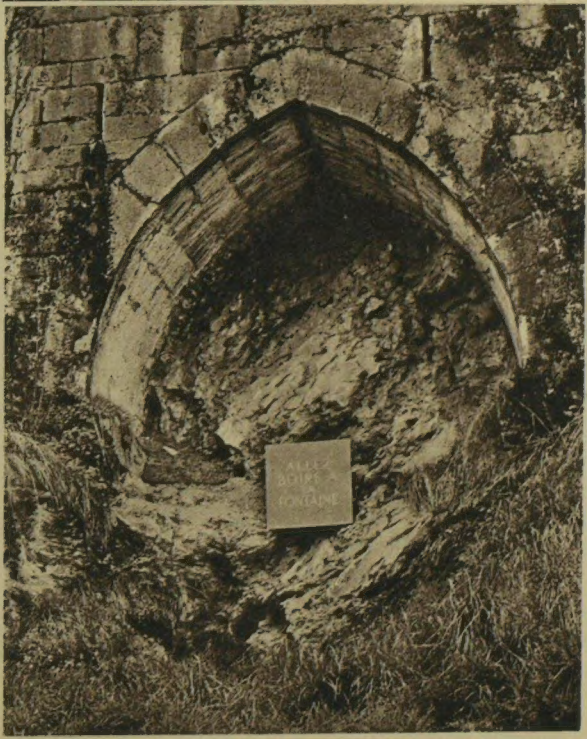
(Right.) AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE LARGE NEW BASILIQUE ST. PIE X. BEHIND ARE THE CHURCH OF THE ROSARY AND, FURTHER AWAY, THE OLD BASILICA.



MODERN ARRANGEMENTS IN LOURDES: TAPS FROM WHICH THE HEALING WATERS CAN CONVENIENTLY BE DRAWN BY PILGRIMS.



SHOWING HOW THE HEALING WATERS HAVE BEEN MADE EASILY AVAILABLE TO CROWDS OF PILGRIMS: ONE OF THE PUSH-BUTTON TAPS.



"ALLEZ BOIRE A LA FONTAINE": A PLAQUE BEARING THE WORDS SPOKEN TO SAINT BERNADETTE BY THE VIRGIN MARY.

THE meeting of the Atlantic Council was held at what was considered a convenient time, to which nobody can object. The effect was, however, that the *communiqué* issued at the end went to the post, so to speak, with the Christmas cards. To many people it seemed a very odd kind of card in this company. Yet the oddity may lie more with the expectations which were apparently disappointed than with the statement itself. N.A.T.O. is a defensive alliance formed to meet a grave danger which has not ceased to exist but, on the contrary, has grown physically stronger. We have been told that N.A.T.O. ought to be much more than this, but no one has ever told us precisely what. The chief difference between this and most *communiqués* is that this was precise.

It laid down the principle that the alliance should not be concerned solely with the North Atlantic area, or only with military defence, in face of world-wide Communist activities. In order to improve political consultation, it stated, the permanent representatives should be kept informed of all government policies affecting the alliance. "In addition... the permanent Council and the Secretary-General should ensure effective consultation, including where necessary, procedures of conciliation at an early stage." After speaking of the great disappointment caused by the Russian rejection of proposals for control of disarmament it expressed readiness to promote negotiations on this subject, within the United Nations or otherwise.

It promised a major effort in the training of scientists and technicians and in the pooling of scientific information. It forecast fresh co-operation in economic development and in efforts to reduce trade barriers. By far the most important and contentious item has been left to the last here, though it did not come there in the *communiqué*. In order to achieve the greatest possible strength for defence with the latest weapons, N.A.T.O. had decided to stock nuclear war-heads, which would be available in case of need. The Council had also arranged that intermediate-range missiles should be put at the disposal of the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. Their use would be a matter for agreement with the States concerned.

This last subject was that which chiefly occupied the time of the debate on December 20 in the British House of Commons. In particular, the debate revolved—the word is perhaps only too apt—about the problem of reconciling political and military control. The chief Opposition spokesman held that facilities for "a foreign Power" must be subject to the political control of "the British people" through the Government. The Prime Minister pointed out that control could only be negative, and when that word caused restive ejaculations, added that it was to the point because Britain clearly could not say how and when weapons should be used, but only how and when they should not be used. This was the safeguard. Only in a Party debate would such points have arisen.

The debate also revealed objections to missile bases in Scotland. Logically, however, there can

A WINDOW ON THE WORLD.

N.A.T.O. AND BRITISH POLICY.

By CYRIL FALLS,

Sometime Chichele Professor of the History of War, Oxford.

be no valid objections to missile sites which are not already inherent in bomber bases. In fact, it may well be argued that the dangers of accidents or errors of judgment are less in the case of the former than in that of the latter. With missiles no predicament arises such as that recently discussed here, that of an aircraft carrying a nuclear weapon being on patrol at a moment of emergency. If ballistic missiles are becoming a means of defence superior to the bomb-carrying aircraft which first came to be stationed in this country under the Attlee Government, then it is surely the right thing to replace the older by the newer weapons, though this can be done only gradually.

THE SUPREME SOVIET MEETING.



SOVIET LEADERS CONFERRING IN MOSCOW: A GENERAL VIEW OF THE JOINT SESSION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET, WHICH PASSED A RESOLUTION ON DECEMBER 21 FOR NEW SUMMIT TALKS.

Two days after the ending of the N.A.T.O. summit meeting in Paris which resulted in the decision to make further approaches to Russia, Mr. Khrushchev addressed the Joint Session of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow and called for a summit conference between East and West. The Supreme Soviet passed a resolution suggesting a seven-point plan to "defend the cause of peace." All of these points—which dealt with disarmament—have been made before.

The debate was, on the whole, an affair of lost opportunities. If the Government's policy is wrong in principle or in part, it would be of advantage for the country to be put in possession of the alternative policy of the Opposition. Had the Leader of the Opposition been in his place this might have been forthcoming, but Mr. Gaitskell was in Ceylon. As it was, no Opposition policy was expounded. Perhaps because time had been lacking to reach agreement on a matter which is known to divide the Opposition deeply, and into more than two compartments, Mr. Bevan was careful to confine himself to criticism and to avoid any constructive suggestions which might have been ill-received by those on his own side who disagree with him for one reason or another. As it was, one of his most vocal critics was that stout old war-horse, Mr. Shinwell.

Either, to follow Mr. Shinwell, you want defence or you don't. The terrible prospects of war

produce an emotional and sentimental attitude to defence, particularly among those, whether in the parties out of office or critical Back-Benchers of that in office, who have no direct responsibility for a positive policy. One can read their minds as if they were one of those exhibition cars with transparent engine casings which reveal the works in action. "I suppose we have to have something of the sort, but I loathe it. I will never express satisfaction with it and I will assume the right to criticise it whenever I see an opening." The advantage of this line when in opposition is that it raises cheers on the speaker's own side, whereas as good a speech—containing a definite policy, too, whether you like it or not—from a Government malcontent gets applause only from his opponents. Such was the fate of Lord Hinchinbrooke.

Mr. Macmillan found logic a frail craft when he had to row it against the full force of this white-topped emotional comber. He shipped water, but he came through. His policy may be embodied in a phrase: a strong N.A.T.O. in readiness to discuss and negotiate. Commonplace? Maybe, but the word is not inevitably a condemnation. A statement may be commonplace because no one is able to gainsay or refute it. The Prime Minister also brought up one extremely interesting side issue when he spoke of co-operation involving specialisation, illustrating it by the remark that it might be well for Britain to concentrate particularly on anti-submarine measures and leave the power to strike to a great extent to the United States Navy.

On the Continent, one of the burning questions is that of the establishment of medium-range ballistic weapons in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany. It is a difficult one. We may take it for granted that, if this were carried out, the hope of fresh negotiations with Soviet Russia on the reunion of Germany would be extinguished for the time being. It is a hope widespread in Western Germany. Yet the Federal Chancellor, astonishingly objective as usual, is not being carried off his feet by the very strong demand that these weapons should be refused. If he decides to bow to it, no one will blame

him. On the other hand, it is fair to praise him because he is not prepared to endorse a popular policy of this kind without the closest scrutiny.

There are three alternative policies. The first would be to strip defences, to declare that the whole thing is intolerable and that we would rather trust to virtue alone than to have anything more to do with it. The second is a policy of half-and-half: have a little of everything, but confine and net it with every restriction that occurs to the fertile mind. The third is a N.A.T.O. equipped with the most efficient weapons, but ready at all times to initiate or aid negotiation in the interests of peace. The first is preferable to the second, since the latter is a useless delusion; but it is no good discussing the first because it is out of the question. This leaves only the third. I am sure it is the right one.

A WINDOW ON THE WORLD—I.



McMURDO SOUND, ANTARCTICA. CONDUCTING A SERVICE FROM A STRETCHER IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR: AN INJURED CHAPLAIN OF THE U.S. NAVY.

At the beginning of December, Chaplain Lieut.-Commander P. Reigner, of the U.S. Navy, suffered severe burns in a helicopter crash when arriving to take up an assignment in Antarctica. Despite his injuries he conducted a service from a stretcher in the expedition chapel, on December 13, before being taken back to the United States for treatment.



THE VATICAN. HIS HOLINESS THE POPE RECEIVING GIFTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE FROM SIX CHILDREN REPRESENTING THE 400,000 MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN CHILDREN'S CATHOLIC ACTION ORGANISATION, IN THE SMALL THRONE ROOM OF THE VATICAN.



THE NETHERLANDS. PRINCESS MARIJKE, QUEEN JULIANA'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, BARE-FOOTED AND IN A LONG WHITE ROBE, SINGING A CAROL DURING A CHRISTMAS PARTY GIVEN FOR THE DUTCH ROYAL FAMILY'S STAFF.



NEW ZEALAND. CAROLS IN THE CATHEDRAL GROTTO, WAITOMO CAVES, NEAR HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND. THIS IS ONE OF THE FAMOUS GLOW-WORM CAVES AND IN IT A SERVICE OF NINE CAROLS AND LESSONS WAS CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 21.



THE NETHERLANDS. QUEEN JULIANA READING THE LESSON DURING A CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND PARTY AT AN ARMY BARRACKS, NEAR SOESTDIJK, ON DECEMBER 23. On December 23 the Dutch Royal family gave a Christmas Party for members of their staff at an army barracks near the Royal Palace at Soestdijk. Carols and lessons from the Bible formed part of this occasion, with Queen Juliana reading and her youngest daughter, Princess Marijke and a choir of children singing carols.

A WINDOW ON THE WORLD—II.



ALGERIA. PATROLLING THE TUNISIAN BORDER: FRENCH SOLDIERS MOVING ALONG THE ELECTRIFIED BARBED-WIRE FENCE ERECTED ON 400 MILES OF THE BORDER.



ALGERIA. ON THE BONE-TEBESSA RAILWAY-LINE: ANOTHER STRETCH OF THE ELECTRIFIED FENCE ERECTED TO STOP THE INFILTRATION OF REBEL SUPPLIES. Among the measures taken by the French authorities to reduce terrorism in Algeria has been the erection of an electrified barbed-wire fence along the border with Tunisia, from which supplies have been reaching the rebels. On Christmas Eve the curfew in Algeria was lifted for the first time for eighteen months.



ALGERIA. AFTER HEAVY RAINSTORMS ON DECEMBER 17 AND 18: A FLOODED MAIN ROAD NEAR ALGIERS, CAPITAL OF ALGERIA.



ALGERIA. IN ONE OF THE MAIN STREETS OF ALGIERS: VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS STRANDED AS THE FLOODWATERS SWEEP THROUGH THE CITY. More than 6½ ins. of rain fell in about thirty-six hours and caused serious flooding in Algiers and the surrounding district. The floods did much damage, cutting road and rail links with the city and destroying crops. One person was reported killed and several injured, while thousands had to be evacuated.



SINGAPORE. ON THE STEPS OF THE CITY HALL: MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S ACTION PARTY DEMONSTRATING AFTER THE ELECTION OF THEIR LEADER AS MAYOR. The move to the Left in Singapore was confirmed when the People's Action Party won control of the city's council, and the Party's leader, Mr. Ong Eng Guan, was elected Mayor. Demonstrations by Party supporters delayed the council's inaugural meeting, and the Mayor-Elect and three councillors were temporarily detained by the police.



SINGAPORE. HOLDING BROOMS WITH WHICH "TO SWEEP OUT THE OLD REGIME": MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S ACTION PARTY DEMONSTRATING IN FAVOUR OF THEIR LEADER, MR. ONG ENG GUAN, MAYOR-ELECT OF SINGAPORE.

A WINDOW ON THE WORLD—III.



BELGIUM. BEFORE THE OPENING OF A NEW MOTOR TUNNEL IN BRUSSELS: A GIRL PRESENTING A PAIR OF SCISSORS TO KING BAUDOUIN.

A large tunnel, over 700 yards long and part of a major road improvement scheme in Brussels, was opened by King Baudouin on December 19. The new tunnel is said to treble the capacity for road traffic of the Place Louise, an important junction. The construction work was completed without interference to traffic.



JAPAN. AT THE OPENING IN TOKYO OF JAPAN'S FIRST MONO-RAIL RAILWAY: A CHIMPANZEE CUTTING THE TAPE.

Japan's first mono-rail railway, consisting of two coaches which travel some 30 ft. above ground-level and are capable of taking over sixty passengers, was opened in Tokyo recently. The tape-cutting ceremony, at a zoo in Tokyo, was performed by a pet chimpanzee.



THE U.S.A. AMERICA'S FIRST INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILE SQUADRON: THE SCENE AT THE NORTHROP AIRCRAFT PLANT, HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, ON DECEMBER 17, WHEN MEN WHO WILL JOIN THE NEW SQUADRON WERE GRADUATED. IN THE BACKGROUND IS A *SNARK* GUIDED MISSILE.



THE U.S.A. THE THIRD U.S. ATOMIC SUBMARINE IS COMMISSIONED: THE CREW SALUTING THE FLAG AT A CEREMONY AT GROTON, CONNECTICUT. The third American atomic submarine, *Skate*, 2190 tons, was commissioned on December 23 at Groton, Connecticut. She is the first atomic submarine designed for production in quantity.



INDONESIA. A SAD FAREWELL: DUTCHMEN GATHERED ON A QUAY IN JAKARTA AS FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WERE EVACUATED TO HOLLAND IN A BRITISH SHIP FOLLOWING THE EXPULSION OF DUTCH NATIONALS FROM THE REPUBLIC.



FRANCE. THE HOLE IN A FRENCH AIRCRAFT AFTER A RECENT MID-AIR EXPLOSION. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

There was an explosion aboard a French aircraft which was flying from Oran, Algeria, to Paris, on December 19. Although the aircraft was carrying eighty-nine passengers, there were no casualties. After the explosion, the aircraft landed at Lyons and police immediately began investigations. Sabotage was suspected.

A WINDOW ON THE WORLD—IV.



CYPRUS. DURING HIS HORSEBACK TOUR NORTH OF NICOSIA ON DECEMBER 28: SIR HUGH FOOT, THE GOVERNOR OF CYPRUS, RIDING INTO A VILLAGE.



CYPRUS. DURING ONE OF THE GOVERNOR'S PRE-CHRISTMAS TOURS: SIR HUGH FOOT BEING GREETED BY TURKISH INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE OF AVDHIMOU.

Sir Hugh Foot, the Governor of Cyprus, was due to arrive in London on December 31 to report to Mr. Lennox-Boyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies, on his assessment of the position in the island. In the days before and immediately after Christmas the Governor had continued his policy of achieving personal contact with the Cypriot people, and on the whole he was given a friendly reception during his tours. Sir Hugh's order for the release of 100 Greek-Cypriot political prisoners in time for Christmas was received with jubilation.



CYPRUS. AFTER THE GOVERNOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 100 GREEK-CYPRIOT PRISONERS WERE TO BE RELEASED FOR CHRISTMAS: PRISONERS GATHERED TO HEAR THE NAMES OF THOSE TO BE RELEASED.



CYPRUS. PREPARING TO RETURN HOME FOR CHRISTMAS: SOME OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED FROM PYLA PRISON CAMP COLLECTING THEIR BELONGINGS. THE RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS WAS JUBILANTLY RECEIVED.



UNITED STATES. IN THE WHITE HOUSE ON DECEMBER 23: PRESIDENT EISENHOWER LISTENING AS MR. DULLES WAS SPEAKING DURING THEIR NATION-WIDE RADIO-TELEVISION REPORT ON THE PARIS N.A.T.O. CONFERENCE.

President Eisenhower was the first to speak during the nation-wide television and radio broadcast from his White House office in a report to the American people of the Paris N.A.T.O. Conference. He was followed by Mr. Dulles, the Secretary of State, who sat by the President's side throughout the broadcast.



MOSCOW. DURING AN INTERVIEW ON DECEMBER 19: MR. E. D. PICKERING, EDITOR OF THE DAILY EXPRESS (LEFT), BEING GREETED BY MR. KHRUSHCHEV, SECRETARY OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY. Mr. E. D. Pickering, accompanied by *Daily Express* correspondent Mr. Terence Lancaster, spent seventy-five minutes with Mr. Khrushchev in his fourth-floor office in the Communist Party Central Committee building in Moscow. During the interview, Mr. Khrushchev stressed the importance of trade between Britain and Russia and expressed his strong desire for new East-West talks.

LAND OF THE OLIVE AND THE CEDAR.

"LEBANON IN HISTORY. FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT": By PHILIP K. HITTI.*

An Appreciation by SIR JOHN SQUIRE.

THE Republic of Lebanon, with about 3,400 square miles of land and a population of about a million-and-a-half, is one of the smallest sovereign States in the world—certainly one of the smallest to be conspicuously vocal in U.N.O. It is so short and thin that it seems odd, with Beirut as a presentable-looking port's name to paint on a ship's hull, that it hasn't joined Liberia and Panama as a great commercial maritime power with its fleets of cargo-ships and tankers sweeping the Seven Seas under the Lebanese flag (a tricolour with a heraldically much-simplified Cedar on it) but owned by enterprising men with names like Themistocles Miltiades Papadiamontopoulos. Had resort been had to the Registration Racket, the young Republic, Under the Spreading Cedar Tree, might well have flourished like the Green Bay Tree. But, although Professor Hitti (already famous as the elaborate, erudite and never-boring historian of the Arabs and of Syria, including Lebanon and Palestine) gives us a lively picture of Lebanon and the Lebanese to-day, he is not mainly thinking of ephemeral politics, conflicts and frontiers; his eyes are fastened on a narrow strip of land, part of a wider and longer but still narrow strip of land, which has been, through ages, a fertile contributor to civilisation, in spite of constant streams of invaders, and a cockpit of strife, easily excelling in that unenviable rôle, Belgium in Europe.

In a much more concentrated, summary, picturesque, eloquent way, the late Hilaire Belloc dealt with the long, combative, argumentative and dreadfully cruel story of that neck of land between the desert and the sea, which joins Asia and Africa. He called his book "The Battleground." That title would not have been entirely adequate for Professor Hitti's. The Professor certainly deals at length with his area's relations, military and political, with the outside world, and complicated they have been. As he says (and here he doesn't mention the Crusaders, who sprinkled the Lebanon with castles), "in their ancient aspects the historic events in themselves are involved with those of Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, Chaldaea, Persia, Macedonia and Rome; in their mediæval aspects with others of the Byzantines, the Arabians and the Moslems; and in modern times with still others of the Ottoman Turks and the French, thus making the story that of a large part of the civilised world in miniature." In spite of this, much of the Professor's book will be novel except to specialists: for, as he says, "no period in the long and chequered history of Lebanon—the Phœnician excepted, and that mainly in its relation to the Old Testament—has been adequately treated, least of all the modern period, to which a considerable part of this volume is devoted."

That suggests quite enough ground to cover. But Professor Hitti's curiosity is universal and his desire to cover his subject as comprehensively as possible is as ardent as that of any German from Schlegel to Spengler. Were he to write a history of England he would not begin with Julius Caesar, or Hengist and Horsa, or even that eminent "Warman, called Billy the Norman," but with the formation of the Devonian and the Old Red Sandstone. He would then have proceeded to Ice Ages, Kent's Cavern and the bones of the woolly rhinoceros and the sabre-tooth tiger; and, on his determined way to the arrival of

Mr. Harold Macmillan at 10, Downing Street; he would have informed us about the date of the killing of the last wolf in England (subject to correction, I think it was in the reign of Queen Anne or that of George I) and that of the death of the last speaker of the Cornish language, Dolly Pentreath, who, I think, flourished about the same time. Coming to later times, he would not omit to note the disappearance of the large-copper butterfly and the bustard, nor the extinction and return of the avocet and the bittern. The building of the mediæval cathedrals would have engaged his attention and the outburst of Elizabethan song, before he ultimately told us of



DÂ'UD PASHA, FIRST GOVERNOR OF AUTONOMOUS LEBANON, 1861-1868.

the disappearance of Peter Rabbit under the scourge of myxomatosis, and of the apparent Liberal resurgence in the by-elections of 1957.

I am not exaggerating. The synopsis of his third chapter runs: "Winds and rain—Temperature—Erosion and streams—Vegetation—Floral zones—The olive tree—The cedar: patriarch



AL-AMIR BASHIR AL-SHIHABI II, RULER OF LEBANON FROM 1788 TO 1840. HE DIED IN CONSTANTINOPLE IN 1850.

From Colonel Churchill, "Mount Lebanon: A Ten Years' Residence," published by Saunders and Otley, London, 1853, Volume I.

The "Battleground" was not merely a battleground between contending nations, and a cockpit for warriors: it was a Stewpan of races, breeds, creeds and languages: and so it seems to remain. Both Lebanon and the adjacent areas of Syria and Palestine are—all of them together, I suppose, about the size of Wales. The mixture of races, throughout the ages, in that "narrow neck of land," has been constant and utterly confusing; this is a land which has seen the passage of many civilisations, all of which have naturally contributed to the racial mixture and culture. Proud though Professor Hitti may be of his native land, and small though his fatherland may be, it is still split into sections. Geographically, there is the coastal strip, with the mountains at one point charging into the sea, and, at the mouth of the Dog River, inscriptions engraved on the rocks dating from the time of the Pharaohs until yesterday. Then there comes the Lebanon range. Then there comes another narrow plain. And then there comes the Anti-Lebanon range, and the frontier of this new Republic. Ethnologically, the inhabitants must be, as they always have been, a complete mixture. And, in the way of religion, they are a mixture still. Predominantly Christian by faith, they include a large population of Maronites (who are a sort of Christian Nonconformists) and Druzes (who are a conglomeration of Moslem Nonconformists): in spite of Professor Hitti's efforts, I still can't quite understand the tenets of either. In that part of the world the splitting of hairs (and the ancient Greeks were not immune from the disease) has been a more popular pastime than the worship of God.

Great achievements for civilisation are recorded here. That enchanting lyric poet, Meleager, came from the Lebanon; the great lawyers Papinian and Ulpian (both murdered), whose pronouncements were the bases of Justinian's great Code, were products of Lebanese schools. Beirut was the seat of a university which drew scholars from all over the known world; and Baalbek (here spelt, after the fashion of scholars, "Ba' labakk") was one of the architectural wonders of the ancient world—ultimately overturned not so much by armies (who did their best) but by an earthquake.

The "battleground" side of Professor Hitti's book makes woeiful reading. One is constantly reminded of the two old sayings, "Happy is the nation which has no history," and "History is the record of the crimes and follies of mankind." The most ghastly massacres of rivals to leadership are perpetrated by Moslems (in the name, I suppose, of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate) and the first Christian warriors, wearing the cross of Christ on their breasts, are reported as butchering the inhabitants of

Jerusalem "without respect of sex or age" under the shadow of that Calvary whereon their God, in His last agonising moments, had murmured "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

That, however, was beyond the Lebanon, where, it is to be hoped, the Maronites and the Druzes may be able to settle down together. Into the question as to what is and what is not an Arab I will not enter: many people seem to think that anybody speaking Arabic is an Arab.

Novels are reviewed by K. John, and other books by E. D. O'Brien, on page 34 of this issue.



VIEWED FROM THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS: BEIRUT, CAPITAL OF LEBANON. THE MOUNT COVERED WITH SNOW IS SANNIN, ONE OF THE HIGHEST PEAKS IN THE RANGE.

Department of Antiquities, Republic of Lebanon.

Illustrations reproduced from the book "Lebanon in History," by courtesy of the publishers, Macmillan and Co., Ltd.

of the Lebanese forest—Fauna—Natural Resources." After chapters dealing with the oldest skeletal remains, the taming of animals and domestication of plants, and discovery of pottery (these achievements were almost world-wide, though I believe that there are still tribes of Australian aborigines who have not yet surmounted those hurdles, able though they may be to endure extremes of temperature with which we are unable to cope), we come to a variety of invasions, industries and cults, and then, in Chapter XIV, to "Philosophers and scholars—Rhetoricians—Contributions to Neo-Platonism—Latin literature—Syriac."

* "Lebanon in History. From the Earliest Times to the Present." By Philip K. Hitti, Professor Emeritus of Semitic Literature, Princeton University. Illustrated. (Macmillan; 42s.)

THE PROSPERITY OF BAHREIN FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO: SOLVING THE RIDDLE OF THE 100,000 BURIAL MOUNDS OF THE ISLAND.

By **PROFESSOR P. V. GLOB**, Leader of the Danish Archaeological Expedition to Bahrein.

(Note: This is the first of two articles on the work of the Danish Archaeological Expedition and deals principally with the Third Millennium temples of Barbar. A second article by Mr. Geoffrey Bibby will deal with ancient Bahrein's position as a prosperous entrepôt between the Sumerian and Indus Valley civilisations.)

WHEN the Danish Archaeological Bahrein Expedition started out in December 1953, its aim was to discover the settlements which in our opinion must exist in association with the 100,000 burial mounds (front page) whose close-packed groups cover the interior of the little desert island of Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf. Several expeditions had previously worked on the

the agency of the late Vice-President E. A. Skinner and the present Vice-President C. R. Barkhurst, whose interest for the glorious past of Bahrein has been continually evidenced, while the essential starting capital was contributed by the Danish State Scientific Foundation the first year, and subsequently by the Carlsberg Foundation.

It was a worked stone block protruding from a considerable gravel mound south of the village of Barbar which resulted in the discovery of the interesting temple complex. A trench driven from north to south through this mound, which covered an area of 4000 square yards and was about 16 ft. high, showed it to cover three constructions lying one above the other, but all demolished to foundation-level (Figs. 2, 3, 5 and 6). A very important feature was that the gravel mound (Fig. 4) had clearly not been accumulated by sand drift, as might very well have been expected in a desert region, but had been deliberately piled

finely-shaped stone, also appear still to be intact, though these are not as yet completely excavated. The material used for the two later temples is a fine-grained white limestone, quarried on the little island of Jida, lying off the north-west coast of Bahrein, six miles from Barbar. The foundations of the first temple to be erected are, on the contrary, of an extremely hard grey stone quarried on Bahrein itself, the same stone as is used for the chambers in the Bahrein burial mounds and in the large building which is still being excavated in the prehistoric capital.

The original appearance of the temples can now be described in main outline. The widespread stone-quarrying which took place in Early Islamic times has, however, made this extremely difficult, both in the case of the upper and the middle temple; but all three temples appear, in the main, to have been of the same type.

The first temple was erected on an artificial mound of clay, about 6½ ft. high and surrounded by a wall, within which lay the inner courtyard of the temple, containing the altar and probably surrounded by buildings. The second temple was erected on the same site but covering a somewhat larger square area, and this, too, has had an inner building and an outer surrounding wall, all three laid at different heights, so that it must have appeared to the onlooker like a little *ziggurat* with three steps, recalling the temples of Mesopotamia. The same appearance was provided by the largest of the burial mounds which was excavated during the first year. There, too, a triple step construction could be made out when a section was cut into the mound. But the gravel mound, unlike the temples, was circular in ground-plan, and had been covered with gravel immediately after the burial. Many of the mounds in a little group near the south-west coast of Bahrein have, on the other hand, never been covered with gravel, and there the step construction can still be seen in the stones piled up around the central chamber. This parallelism between graves and temples or houses is not unusual, and can be traced in other prehistoric cultures.

A stone staircase gave access to the second temple from the south side, and a ramp from the west, lying above a similar ramp which led to the interior of the first temple (Fig. 6). On the east side of this temple another ramp leads down to an oval cult area, surrounded by a wall of smaller unshaped stones. An interesting feature is a double row of large pediment stones on both sides of the western ramp. These perhaps originally supported wooden statues of deities. On the side of one of them two human figures with upstretched arms have been roughly carved, perhaps reproducing two of the figures which originally stood upon the pediments.

The latest temple to be erected has similarly possessed an inner building and been surrounded by an outer wall. The central religious features of the inner building, which possessed a row of smaller rooms along the western side, were almost

[Continued opposite.]



FIG. 1. A PIERCED STONE WITH AN ANIMAL HEAD, ONE OF A CURVED LINE OF SIX SIMILAR FIGURES, STANDING TO THE SOUTH-WEST OF THE ALTAR COMPLEX OF THE THIRD TEMPLE OF BARBAR. ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM B.C.

island, the first in 1878 and the latest in 1940, but they had found no trace of settlement, either from the time of the burial mounds, which it was thought belonged to the period 2000-1000 B.C., or from earlier or later times. The theory had therefore been put forward that Bahrein had been used in prehistoric times as a sepulchral island for the peoples living on the mainland of Arabia, the Hasa coast of which is visible from the low shores of the island. Before even the end of the first campaign, in which I was accompanied by Geoffrey Bibby, M.A., and Kristian Jeppesen, M.A., this theory had been completely demolished. In the course of the five months the expedition was in the field twelve palæolithic and neolithic sites, two temples of Third Millennium date near the villages of Diraz and Barbar, and a city mound covering 250,000 square yards at Qala'at al-Bahrein, marking the site of Bahrein's prehistoric capital, had all been found.

The results of the first campaign, planned merely as an archaeological reconnaissance of Bahrein, were thus so promising that a continuation was a matter of course. Since that year the expedition has been in the field every winter, and the fourth and most recent campaign, in which ten archaeologists took part, ended in April 1957. Work has been in the main concentrated on the two sites discovered during the first season, the ancient capital at Qala'at al-Bahrein and the temple-complex at Barbar among the palm groves of the north coast. But investigations have also continued in the desert, particularly near the south-west coast, with the result that the number of settlements identified, mainly dating from the palæolithic period, has now risen to thirty. In addition, a considerable shell-heap has been excavated and proved to be contemporary with the temples at Barbar. The scope of the discoveries has now widened to such a degree that it would be difficult to cover all the ground in a single article, and this report will therefore be restricted to the investigation of the Barbar temples, an investigation which, however, is not yet completed.

From the beginning the Danish Archaeological Bahrein Expedition has enjoyed the benefits of the active interest and economic support of the Ruler of Bahrein, His Highness Shaikh Sulman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah, and of the never-failing interest and assistance of His Highness's adviser, Sir Charles Belgrave. The broad scope of the work done has further been facilitated by grants from the Bahrein Petroleum Company, secured by

up above the buildings, as was shown by the stones of varying size incorporated in the material, and by widespread gypsum layers at several points in the mound. The walls of the section showed clearly that this gravel mound had been piled up immediately after the demolition to foundation-level of the uppermost temple in the middle of the Third Millennium B.C., a date given by the objects discovered on the site, and also that, at a very much later date, to judge by the potsherds the eighth to ninth century A.D., the mound had been subject to thorough stone-quarrying. As excavation continued another point of the highest significance appeared, that in demolishing and covering the latest temple the actual sacred area in the centre had been left untouched. The altar, the tall stones of the altar-seat and the other cult-stones were still in position (Figs. 2 and 4), even though the paving-stones of the floor had been broken up right to their foot. One of the altar supports had, however, been overturned and one of the other cult-stones dragged over to a double-circular stone construction (Fig. 7). The altar complexes of the earlier temples, including in the case of the middle temple a large circular block of



FIG. 2. THE ALTAR COMPLEX OF THE THIRD TEMPLE.

In the centre can be seen the two tall stones, which perhaps originally carried a seat; between them is the square altar stone; and beyond is the sacrificial pit.

BAHREIN FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO: THE THREE TEMPLES OF BARBAR.



FIG. 3. THE THREE THIRD MILLENNIUM TEMPLES OF BARBAR, IN BAHREIN, ONE SET ON TOP OF THE OTHERS. THE FIRST ONLY IS OF BAHREIN STONE.



FIG. 4. THE ALTAR COMPLEX OF THE THIRD TEMPLE. IN THE BACKGROUND CAN BE SEEN THE HUGE MOUND OF GRAVEL WHICH WAS BUILT OVER IT.

Continued.

intact and only to a minimal degree disturbed by the later stone-quarrying. In the centre lie two circular stone constructions touching one another; slight traces of copper on their sides would suggest that they were sheathed in copper. Between this structural feature and the eastern wall the two altar-stones had been erected, and in front of them stood a little square altar. All this area was covered by a strewn layer of light sub-surface sand from the desert, a layer bounded on the north by a copper-lined stone gutter which led out to a system of underground channels on the eastern side of the temple. In front of the gutter there was a little deep pit, unfortunately plundered by the stone-quarriers but still containing several fine alabaster jars (Fig. 11), ornaments of lapis lazuli, sherds of drinking goblets and two copper figurines, the one a naked male figure with its hands folded before its breast (Figs. 10 and 12), the other a figure of a bird (Fig. 15). This interesting combination of the three features: votive offerings, altar and altar-stones, calls to mind a motif often occurring on contemporary Mesopotamian cylinder-seals; there can be seen the offerings



FIG. 5. THE TWO LATER TEMPLES. THE FIGURE II LIES ON THE WALL ROUND THE INNER COURT OF THE SECOND TEMPLE. THIS WALL IS OVER 6 FT. WIDE.



FIG. 6. DETAILS OF THE BARBAR TEMPLES. (A) A DRAIN LEADING FROM THE FIRST TEMPLE. (I) STONE PLINTHS. (II) A RAMP LEADING TO THE INNER COURT OF THE SECOND TEMPLE. (III) REMAINS OF THE PERIMETER WALL OF THE THIRD TEMPLE.



FIG. 7. STONE CIRCLES OF FINE MASONRY, TO THE WEST OF THE ALTAR COMPLEX. THE OPEN SIDES ARE THE RESULT OF DESTRUCTION BY LATER STONE-ROBBARS.

being laid before an altar behind which a deity is enthroned; and the tall altar-stones in the Barbar temple have in fact a depression at the top suggesting that they were supports for just such a divine throne. In the earlier temples, too, objects of great value were discovered. Deposited besides one of the walls of the middle temple, together with a large quantity of copper sheathing lay a magnificent bull's head (Figs. 8 and 9), resembling to a very close degree similar heads from the Early Dynastic Royal Graves at Ur. From the heart of this temple there also came flat axeheads, a crescent-formed sleeved axe and a

[Continued overleaf.]

BAHREIN'S PROSPERITY FIVE THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE THE OIL AGE.



FIGS. 8 AND 9. PERHAPS THE FINEST SINGLE OBJECT FOUND IN THE BAHREIN EXCAVATIONS: A COPPER BULL'S HEAD, BEFORE AND AFTER CLEANING AND CONSERVATION. THIS HEAD, FOUND WITH MUCH COPPER SHEATHING, RECALLS SIMILAR HEADS FROM THE EARLY DYNASTIC GRAVES AT UR.

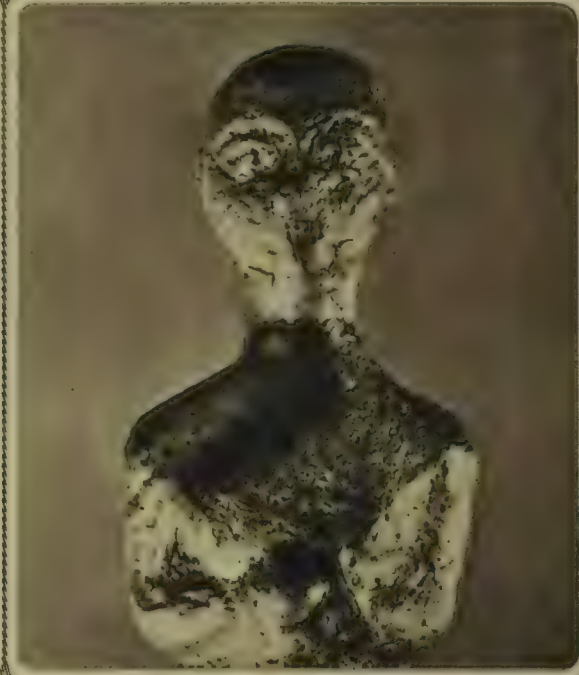


FIG. 10. A DETAIL OF THE COPPER FIGURE SHOWN IN FIG. 12. THIS WAS FOUND IN THE SACRIFICIAL PIT OF TEMPLE III AT BARBAR.



FIG. 11. AN ALABASTER JAR, COMPLETE WITH LID. THIS VERY PLEASANT OBJECT OF FUNCTIONAL FORM WAS ONE OF SEVERAL FOUND IN THE SACRIFICIAL PIT OF TEMPLE III. SEE FIG. 2.



FIG. 12. A COPPER FIGURE OF A MAN WITH HIS HANDS FOLDED OVER HIS BREAST. SEE ALSO FIG. 10. PROBABLY AN OFFERING, IT WAS FOUND IN THE SACRIFICIAL PIT, SEEN IN FIG. 2.



FIG. 13. THE DOMINATING TYPE OF POTTERY IN ALL THE THREE TEMPLES OF BARBAR: A JAR OF REDDISH-BROWN FABRIC WITH APPLIED HORIZONTAL RIDGES.



FIG. 14. CLAY GOBLETS, WHICH WITH A GOLD RIBBON, COPPER AXES AND OTHER OBJECTS WERE FOUND AT THE BASE OF THE CLAY MOUND ON WHICH THE FIRST TEMPLE WAS BUILT.



FIG. 15. A COPPER FIGURE OF A BIRD, FROM THE SACRIFICIAL PIT OF TEMPLE III. THESE OFFERINGS RECALL MOTIFS ON CONTEMPORARY MESOPOTAMIAN CYLINDER SEALS.

Continued.
spearhead, all of copper. In the soil of the platform to the earliest temple lay a group of objects comprising over a score of earthenware drinking-cups (Fig. 14), a copper vessel and a narrow gold ribbon, and in another group some distance away a sleeved adze and various other fragments of copper, including the bottom slag from a smelting crucible. These articles had all been deposited in the course of the erection of the temple. Both the structural features of the temples and a number of the objects found show a close connection with the Pre-Dynastic and Early Dynastic cultures of Mesopotamia, while others

show contacts with the area of the Indus civilisation. Together with the discoveries from the prehistoric capital, they show that in prehistoric times Bahrein was a pillar of the maritime trade between Mesopotamia and India, and, moreover, that Bahrein was inhabited by big-businessmen who led this trade. It is they and their families who lie buried in the 100,000 grave-mounds of Bahrein, and it is presumably they who are described on the clay tablets of Ur as the *alik Dilmun* ("the travellers to Dilmun"). In that case Bahrein was of old the legendary Dilmun.



IN AN ENGLISH GARDEN.

COLLECTING PLANTS WITH "CROCKY."

By CLARENCE ELLIOTT, V.M.H.

IT is strange, and a very great pity, how vague and incompetent many amateur gardeners are in the matter of transporting plants which friends have given them—manavilins, and unconsidered trifles—roots, cuttings, seedlings, suckers, and the rest, not to mention plants which they have collected abroad, especially in the Alps. It is truly terrible how the old traditional sponge-bag technique still persists. Nothing could be worse than an airtight sponge-bag. Mewed up in its damp, stuffy atmosphere, plants will rot and moulder more quickly than under almost any other conditions. For a few hours, or even a couple of days, a sponge-bag may serve its purpose well enough by keeping delicate roots from drying out. But by far the better way is to wrap the roots of collected plants in a little damp moss—just damp, but never dripping wet—having first removed a reasonable amount of soil, and leaving the stems and leaves fully exposed to light and air, though not, of course, to full sunshine.

That was my method over many years on innumerable plant-collecting expeditions in the Alps, the Pyrenees, in Spain, Scandinavia, Corsica, Majorca, etc., as well as in British gardens. When journeying from place to place, the bundles of moss-and-paper-wrapped roots, with tops well exposed to air, were taken, closely packed, in a light suit-case, and then, upon arriving at a fresh collecting centre, I would stand the bundles upright, and close together, in their suit-case, with often an overflow batch on a newspaper spread on my bedroom floor, until the next journey to some fresh collecting centre, when all would go back into the close confinement in the suit-case for as short a time as possible. It was a method which worked extremely well. In collecting from gardens, etc., nearer home I still stuck, whenever possible, to the moss-and-paper wrapping of the roots.

In recent years, however, a new technique has become available to the plant-collector, through the invention of that miraculous plastic material, polythene. I have not as yet used it myself on any serious plant-collecting expedition abroad, but I have used it a great deal in bringing or sending home plants given to me by friends I have visited. But a year or two ago my son Joe went a-plant-hunting in the Alps, and took with him a generous supply of polythene bags. He brought home a fine lot of choice Alpines, and certainly his polythene technique was very much simpler and less laborious than my old moss-and-paper bundlings and wrappings. He merely dropped his plants—in most cases having first delicately shaken the main weight of soil from the roots—into the bags, which he at once closed by binding their necks so securely as to make them airtight. His collection arrived home in wonderfully fresh and healthy condition, and even a few specimens of that terribly difficult-to-transplant species, *Eritrichium nanum*, survived the journey sufficiently alive to become established, and to flower the following summer in the Alpine house.

Everyone must surely know polythene by now: that silky-soft, milky-translucent sheeting. It is already widely used for wrapping all sorts of perishable goods, especially food. A friend who gardens in London told me recently that he bought a sizeable bag of horse-droppings—or rather, stable manure—for a few shillings. The bag was of polythene. Very convenient for a small London garden, both as to quantity and price. I can not think of any sort of London shop—not even the biggest and most versatile department-store—in which I would expect to be able to say successfully, "Please, I want a bag of horse-droppings"—or, more politely and precisely, stable manure. And alas,

gone are the days when urchins would ring the bell and offer the precious commodity, collected with patient industry with their simple equipment—an old coal shovel and a Tate sugar-box on pram wheels. Polythene—and petrol—have put an end to that phase of private enterprise. No longer will an over-businesslike urchin explain his charge of an extra shilling for his box-load of droppings on the ground that he had lost his shovel, and "This is all 'and-picked.'"

A charge of a few shillings for a fair-sized polythene bag of London stable manure may seem very reasonable, yet it is probable that at that rate, an ordinary cart-load of the stuff would work out at an astronomical number of pounds.



SKY-BLUE FLOWERS OF DELICIOUS FRAGRANCE, REQUIRING SIMILAR CULTURE TO FREESIAS AND WATSONIAS: THE CHILEAN BULBOUS PLANT, *LEUCOCORYNE IXIOIDES ODORATA*, WHOSE SEED MADE SUCH A RICH CARGO FOR "CROCKY." [Photograph by R. A. Malby and Co.]

But, as with so many packeted goods, whether it be bicarbonate of soda or stable manure, the business is extremely convenient to the buyer, and highly profitable to the vendor. And so everybody is happy.

The special virtue of polythene to the plant-collector is that the material has the extraordinary

quality of allowing air to pass through it, and at the same time preventing the escape of moisture. Thus the plants in a polythene bag are able to breathe, so to speak, yet will not dry out. For many years I have made a practice of always carrying a few small envelopes in my wallet, which I find invaluable when a friend gives me a pinch of seeds, or when I harvest seeds in the wild. Recently I have added to this emergency equipment a few polythene bags. They are feather-light and take up very little space in my wallet, but they are quite invaluable when a friend offers a dozzle of choice seedlings or a few rooted cuttings.

Whilst on the topic of plant-collecting I must tell of "Crocky." During close upon forty years "Crocky" was my constant and invaluable companion on every plant-collecting expedition, as well as on all my hitherings and thitherings to visit gardens as a garden consultant. My first meeting with "Crocky" was like this. I was making for the 9 a.m. (or is it 9.30?) Continental train at Victoria, on my first serious collecting expedition in the Alps. My luggage consisted of a suit-case and a little old leather handbag, which was just as full as it would hold. That, I felt, was bad staff-work. A handbag for three or four weeks' travel should not be bung-full at the outset. So I went to a shop near the station with a vast display of every imaginable sort of trunk, bag, suit-case and portmanteau, and said I wanted a kitbag—"a little larger than my handbag." At once they produced a kitbag four or five times the size of my handbag and of the most superlative crocodile I had ever seen. It was apparently brand-new, without a scratch on it. "How much?" I asked. If they had said £40 or £50 I would not have been surprised, and would have asked for something in contrast. When they said £5, I was surprised. But without asking how they came by the sumptuous thing, I paid the fiver, emptied the contents of my shabby little handbag into my capacious crocodile, and set off for the Alps feeling like some over-prosperous actor-manager of the Edwardian era.

From that day, "Crocky," as the family christened my rather ridiculous purchase, went everywhere with me, and everywhere "Crocky" created a mild sensation. Sometimes it was rather a bore but often really amusing. I remember travelling to some job in the north and changing platforms at Leeds. A porter—with conscious pride—carried "Crocky." We were met at the other platform by the station-master, in full rig, including a white rosebud with maidenhair button-hole. After one look at "Crocky" he came forward and said, "I have got your carriage reserved, sir." "Very kind of you," I replied, and was conducted with dignity to my reserved carriage. Before getting in I enquired, "Who, by the by, do you think I am?" "Aren't you . . . ?" and he mentioned a distinguished Cabinet Minister. "Not guilty," I pleaded, and at that moment a slightly shabby but definitely live-looking bloke turned up and took over the reserved carriage. His hand luggage was deplorable. But at any rate, the station-master thought I was somebody, and gave me almost as gracious a bow as he gave the fellow in the next carriage as we pulled out of the station.

"Crocky" was continually getting me sailing under false colours in that sort of way, but I put up with it, and it is good to think of the collected bulbs and seeds and sometimes plants that "Crocky" carried for me. Perhaps his most precious and valuable cargo was 4 lb. of seed of *Leucocoryne ixioides odorata* ("Glory of the Sun") which I collected in Chile, every scrap of which was eventually sold at £25 per ounce.

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NATURE'S WONDERLAND. SERIES II. NO. 7. BIRDS OF THE INLAND WATERWAYS OF

Birds have conquered the air and also the land, the seas and the fresh waters. While it may be a matter for speculation as to how they first became gifted with the powers of flight, there can be little doubt of the benefits this conferred. These include the ability to change feeding-grounds readily and to tap such sources of food as flying insects. Another benefit lay in the ability to escape ground predators more readily. So in a relatively short time, geologically speaking, birds flourished exceedingly, and the competition among the crowded populations encouraged, if it did not wholly compel, the invasion of new habitats, among them

the rivers and the lakes. There thus came into being the assorted assemblage generally known as water birds. Typical of these are the many kinds of duck which, where unmolested, exist in tremendous numbers, testifying to the ease of an aquatic life. While they, and, to a lesser extent, swans, spring readily to mind as characteristic of inland waters they are not the most completely aquatic. Grebes are even more fully tied to the water. Among this avifauna are a number of others which, to a varying extent, use the water for twin reasons—food and protection. The sedge and reed warblers and the bearded tit have adopted

Drawn by our Special Artist, Neave Parker, F.R.S.A.

BRITAIN, FROM DUCKS AND SWANS TO SUCH INVADERS AS BLACK-HEADED GULLS.

the dense beds of waterside vegetation as a secure nest but are otherwise not aquatic; so also the bittern and the marsh-dwelling water rail. Herons, by contrast, nest away from water and use the waterside for feeding. Even less aquatic are the sand-martins which use the sandy banks as nesting sites and, like their relatives the swallows, often hunt over the water for insects but otherwise use it only for drinking and bathing. Each species of aquatic bird has its ecological niche. Coot prefer lakes and moorlands the running water. The swiftly-flowing streams are the habitat of the dipper, and the kingfisher finds its best hunting in the streams

with the co-operation of Dr. Maurice Burton.

and rivers, and is aquatic only in so far as it dives for its food. Within the last half-century we have seen the inland waters more and more invaded by birds we normally think of as typical sea-birds. Foremost among these is the black-headed gull, and the trail it blazed inland from the coast is being followed by other gulls. They are attracted primarily by the opportunities for scavenging and they represent a menace to the other water-birds, adding, in the open stretches of water, to the predations of the marsh harrier and Montagu's harrier among the sedges and reed-beds.



A NOTABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RECENT YEARS IN SAVING LIFE AT SEA: THE INCREASING USE OF THE INFLATABLE LIFERAFT, DESCENDANT OF THE R.A.F. RUBBER DINGHY.

During recent years the inflatable liferaft, descendant of the R.A.F. rubber dinghy, has won increasing recognition as a means of saving life at sea. Inflatable rafts have been adopted by the Royal Navy, and now Ministry of Transport Regulations and Recommendations, due to come into operation this year, will ensure that nearly all vessels under the British flag will carry this equipment. Important advantages of inflatable liferafts are their space-saving qualities on board ship and the enclosed protection against rough seas and bad weather which they afford. They are comparatively simple to

launch, there is near of breaking bones if one has to jump into them and, unlike lifeboats, they do not have to be manoeuvred in unfavourable sea conditions. On the other hand, the inflatable liferaft is vulnerable to damage by fire and puncturing, and elderly passengers would not find it easy to enter them by climbing down ropes or rope ladders. Just over a year ago the carrying of inflatable liferafts was made compulsory for British fishing fleets, and during 1956, for the first time since records were kept, no lives were lost at sea from the sinking of British fishing vessels. Altogether, four crews,

totaling fifty-nine lives, were saved by this equipment during the year. In 1957 there have been several cases where lives have been saved at sea by inflatable lifeboats. One crew spent three nights and two days adrift in the North Sea in one of these lifeboats after abandoning their ship. The equipment provided in inflatable lifeboats includes rain-collecting and storage apparatus, means for making sea-water fit for drinking, emergency rations, and fishing tackle. Elliott Equipment Ltd. is a leading firm in the manufacture of inflatable lifeboats, and their agents, Cory Brothers and Co., Ltd., recently

held an important exhibition in London of inflatable life-saving equipment. It is expected that at the next International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, to be held in 1960, inflatable liferafts will be adopted as a standard means of life-saving throughout the world. The recent loss during a gale in the North Sea, apparently without survivors from its crew of twenty-eight, of the *Narva*, a ship from Glasgow which was equipped with inflatable liferafts, serves to emphasise the dangers to which seamen are constantly exposed, even when all precautions appear to have been taken.



A PAGE FOR COLLECTORS.

By FRANK DAVIS.

TREASURES FROM NATIONAL TRUST HOUSES.

piece, showing different ink-vases, is exhibited with it.

Though you can get closer to the smaller things here than in their normal surroundings, you cannot, of course, handle them; one can bear with that well enough in the case of a gold and enamelled snuff-box or an enchanting fan from Buscot reputed to have belonged to Marie-Antoinette, but it is hard not to be able to pull the trigger of a French late eighteenth-century gold and enamelled and pearl-bordered scent-spray. The thing is 5 ins. long; on pulling the trigger the cork strikes the flash-pan cover which then flies forward firing the expanding flower from the muzzle and discharging scent. Were I in charge of the exhibition I should be tempted to allow visitors to use it in exchange for a year's membership of the Trust. This comes from Cliveden, as also do two very pretty boxes, one a gold-mounted jasper snuff-box, the other a Swiss musical-box, each 4 ins. wide. Each bears an inscription to the effect that they were left in charge of the British Consul at Genoa in 1822 by Lord Byron on his departure for Greece. Some miniature animal carvings in hardstones, an enamelled gold box and a gold-mounted jade dish uphold the claim of Fabergé to be the direct descendant of the eighteenth-century French jewellers—indeed, there is a little agate bonbonnière formed as a cat, of about the year 1760, which one could easily mistake for a Fabergé piece, diamond eyes and all, until one notices the pierced gold mount, which is obviously pre-1800.

The name of Boulle makes no very great appeal to English ears—nor, for that matter, to many French ones. We think of him mainly as the author of monumental cupboards and commodes marvellously inlaid with silver or pewter, splendid in a palace, but too dignified and formal for a home—moreover, decidedly sombre. Nor has his reputation been increased by a myriad tiresome nineteenth-century imitations. Two very fine—indeed almost gay—examples of his

grandiose rather than dignified—in short, we are out of sympathy with the taste of his day which his work so vividly reflects. None the less, faced by this mahogany settee carved and gilded, with its shells, oak and acanthus foliage and arms terminating in lions' heads, one begins to acquire a sneaking admiration for that remarkable personality, that architectural Admirable Crichton, and to suspect that, if this is indeed designed by him,



FIG. 1. IN THE EXHIBITION OF "TREASURES FROM NATIONAL TRUST HOUSES," ABOUT WHICH FRANK DAVIS WRITES HERE: A SILVER-GILT INKSTAND, MADE IN MADRID IN 1777. MAKER'S MARK RARGAS. (Height, 10 ins.) (Saltram Park.)

more precious objects which have been handed over with the house. It is a selection of these, suitably set off by some superb furniture, and chosen from among twenty-three great houses, which is on view at Christie's until January 26 in aid of the Trust. I believe that the great majority of visitors will be as astonished as I was myself at the variety and quality of these treasures, which include sculpture, silver, porcelain and furniture, and dozens of luxurious little productions of the jeweller's craft which cannot for obvious reasons be displayed to advantage in their own setting.

The silver alone is well worth a visit, for it includes a silver-gilt font-shaped cup from Charlecote of the year 1524; the splendid Turkish pottery jug from Nostell Priory with its English silver mounts of about 1600, a pair of silver-gilt Mazarines of 1672 pierced and engraved in the form of a net full of fish—a Mazarine is a stand on which the fish is served on top of a dish, the moisture falling through the holes in the stand: it is a most original and delightful work from Charlecote (a similar pair is in the Royal Collection). There is also the surprising and imposing inkstand of Fig. 1, which I rather think any ordinary person at first sight would put down as a highly original work by some English silver-smith and then cast about for the name of its author. I know I did, and was considerably taken aback to discover that it was made in Madrid in 1777 by a Spanish craftsman. It is believed to have been made for Lord Grantham, our Ambassador to Spain from 1771-79, as a present to his sister Lady Boringdon. The original design for this exceptionally fine



FIG. 3. WORKED IN COLOURED GRASSES: AN AMERICAN COLONIAL BIRCH-BARK CASKET OF ABOUT 1770. ALL THE PIECES SHOWN HERE ARE IN THE EXHIBITION OF "TREASURES FROM NATIONAL TRUST HOUSES," WHICH CONTINUES AT CHRISTIE'S, 8, KING STREET, ST. JAMES'S, UNTIL JANUARY 26. (Width, 9 ins.) (Cotehele.)

prodigious talent as a worker in metal come from Buscot—a hanging clock and barometer of about 1710 (Fig. 2). He was not only the leading cabinet-maker of his day but one of its most civilised connoisseurs. His whole collection, by all accounts magnificent, perished in a fire in 1720. He died in 1732, aged ninety.

A settee from Stourhead, part of a well-known suite attributed to William Kent, is a reminder that we also, in our rough island way, could produce some singularly dignified ceremonial furniture when we had a mind to. Many of us are allergic to the charms of William Kent, that brilliant protégé of Lord Burlington, who was the first of the architects to design not only your mansion but its contents; we find his ideas

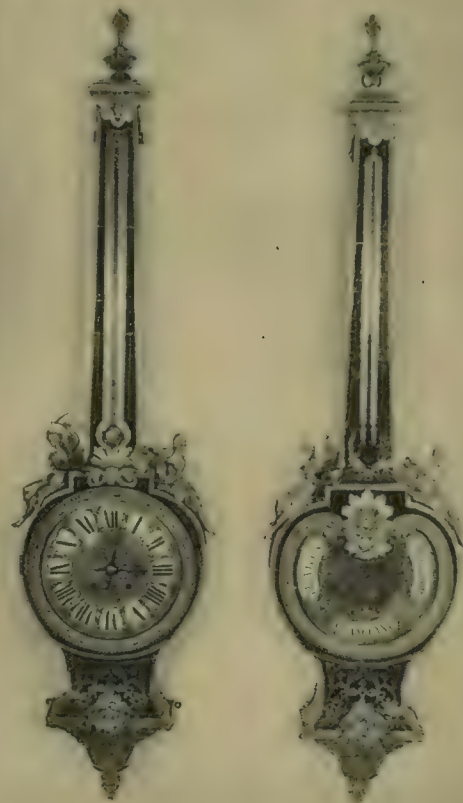


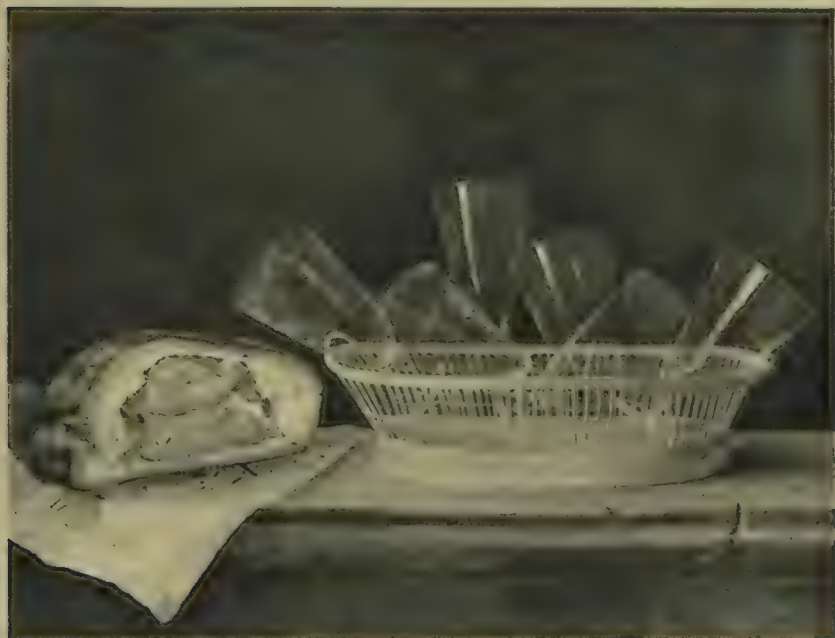
FIG. 2. OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF THE WORK OF BOULLE: A FRENCH PENDANT CLOCK AND BAROMETER OF ABOUT 1710. THE CLOCK MOVEMENT SIGNED RENARD DORE. (Height, 46 ins.) (Buscot.)

then some of the furniture traditionally fathered upon him may, after all, be by lesser men. Among other things from Stourhead is a marquetry writing-table of about 1780, and, from West Wycombe Park, a marquetry commode, each of them in the French style and admirable examples of what English cabinet-makers could do when speaking in a slightly foreign accent.

The delight taken by our ancestors on both sides of the Channel during the eighteenth century in everything Chinese, is beautifully and amusingly illustrated by several pieces—a Chinese black lacquer cabinet, for example, on an English stand, one of those pseudo-Chinese mirrors, associated inevitably with the name of Thomas Chippendale, two pairs of Chinese mirror pictures of about 1760 in English frames of the period, and a black lacquer upright secretaire, decorated in gold and colours with Chinese landscapes, trees, etc., by Tuart and Boudin, Paris, 1765; all this in addition to a few excellent pieces of Chinese porcelain. What is to me the completely hideous style of the 1670's—to others it is noble beyond expression—is represented by the rarest possible exhibit from Knole—a silver-mounted ebonised table, a mirror and a pair of torchères.

It is a relief to turn from such baroque and extravagant splendours to something very naïve and oddly touching—the birch-bark casket of Fig. 3. This is a very fragile affair, worked in coloured grasses with Indians, duellists and figures sitting down to tea. What pains some young woman took over this, working in such primitive material, far away in pre-revolution America! It is remarkable it has survived nearly 200 years.

"THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV": A FINE ROYAL ACADEMY WINTER EXHIBITION.



"STILL LIFE," BY SEBASTIEN STOSKOPFF (1597-1657)—BORN IN STRASBOURG, AND SPENT MANY YEARS IN PARIS. (Oil on canvas : 19½ by 24½ ins.) (Musée de Strasbourg.)



"STILL LIFE," A DECORATIVE WORK BY JEAN-BAPTISTE MONNOYER (1634-1699), WHO SPENT HIS LAST YEARS WORKING IN ENGLAND. MOST OF THE EXHIBITS IN THIS R.A. WINTER EXHIBITION HAVE BEEN LENT BY FRENCH PROVINCIAL MUSEUMS. (Oil on canvas : 57½ by 74½ ins.) (Musée Fabre, Montpellier.) (Photograph by Giraudon.)



"PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG BOY (THE DUC D'ENGHIEN?)" : A DELIGHTFUL PAINTING OF THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF ABOUT 1630. (Oil on canvas : 19½ by 16½ ins.) (Musée de Nantes.)



"LOUIS XIV," AN IMPRESSIVE MARBLE BUST OF "LE ROI SOLEIL," BY ANTOINE COYSEVOX (1640-1720). (Height, 35 ins.) (Musée de Dijon.)



"TURENNE," BY CHARLES LE BRUN (1619-1690), WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMPLETE DECORATION OF VERSAILLES. (Oil on canvas : 26½ by 20½ ins.) (Musée National Versailles.)



"PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST," BY NICOLAS DE LARGILLIERE (1656-1746), A MOST POPULAR PORTRAITIST IN PARIS. (Oil on canvas : 31½ by 25½ ins.) (Musée National, Versailles.)



"POMPONNE DE BELLIEVRE," BY PHILIPPE DE CHAMPAIGNE (1602-1674), WHO WAS BORN IN BRUSSELS. (Oil on canvas : 41½ by 33½ ins.) (Musée Granet, Aix.)



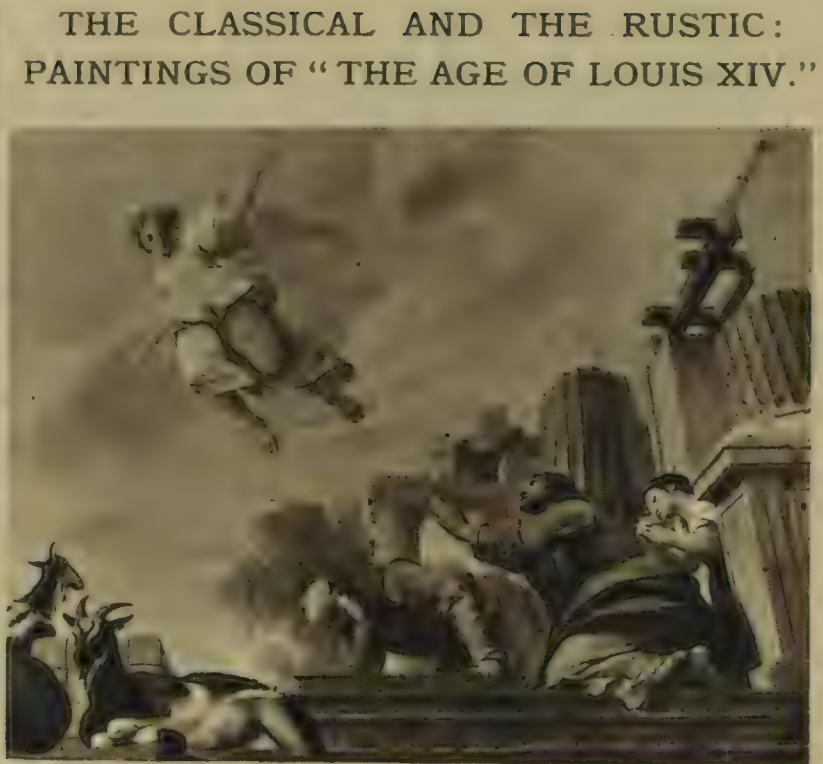
"PORTRAIT OF A PAINTER," ATTRIBUTED TO PIERRE MIGNARD (1612-1691), AND PERHAPS A SELF-PORTRAIT. (Oil on canvas : 31½ by 26 ins.) (Musée de Dijon.) (Photograph by Giraudon.)

The Royal Academy Winter Exhibition, which is to open to the public to-day (January 4), provides a rich survey of French art from about 1615 to 1715, and is entitled "The Age of Louis XIV." Louis XIV was born in 1638 and reigned from 1643-1715, and his long reign saw a fine flowering of artistic genius and inspired patronage, which made it one of the greatest ages of French art. Though the Exhibition, which has been arranged under the patronage of the mixed Franco-British Cultural Commission and in collaboration with L'Association Française d'Action Artistique, is devoted principally to paintings, there are also notable groups of drawings, sculpture, tapestries, goldsmith's work and book-bindings, which greatly

assist the insight into the artistic spirit of the period. A remarkable feature of the Exhibition is that it has been very largely drawn from some seventy of the provincial museums of France, of which there are over 1000, and which often tend to be overshadowed by the glories of the famous national collections. Though a few important gaps have had to be filled from such national collections, the comprehensive survey of French painting in *Le Grand Siècle* bears impressive witness to the great wealth of treasures to be found in the provincial museums. On this page we show a number of portraits, a bust and two still-lives from the Exhibition, which continues at Burlington House, Piccadilly, until March 9.



"A HARBOUR," A WORK OF THE MID-1630'S BY CLAUDE LORRAINE, WHICH IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IN GRENOBLE AS EARLY AS 1677. THE COMPOSITION IS COMPARATIVELY REALISTIC IN ITS GENERAL CHARACTER. (Oil on canvas: 47½ by 61½ ins.) (Musée de Grenoble.) (Photograph by Giraudon.)



"THE ANGEL LEAVING TOBIAS," BY EUSTACHE LE SUEUR (1616 OR 1617 TO 1655): PART OF A CEILING DECORATION PAINTED FOR THE HOTEL FIEUBET IN PARIS. (Oil on canvas: 68½ by 84½ ins.) (Musée de Grenoble.) (Photograph by Giraudon.)



"THE CHRISTENING FEAST," BY LOUIS LE NAIN (1593?-1648): A PAINTING DISCOVERED IN 1923 BY PAUL JAMOT, WHO BEQUEATHED IT TO THE LOUVRE. IT IS DATED TO THE EARLY 1640'S. (Oil on canvas: 24 by 30½ ins.) (Musée du Louvre.)



"THE CARD-PLAYERS," BY MATHIEU LE NAIN (c. 1607-77), THE YOUNGEST OF THE THREE LE NAIN BROTHERS WHO WERE ALL BORN AT LAON. MATHIEU BECAME A MASTER PAINTER IN PARIS IN 1633. (Oil on canvas: 24½ by 29½ ins.) (Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence.)



"VENUS AND AENEAS," A WORK OF 1639 BY NICOLAS POUSSIN, WHO WAS THEN AT THE END OF HIS PERIOD IN ROME. (Oil on canvas: 41½ by 55½ ins.) (Musée de Rouen.)



"THE SACRIFICE OF NOAH," BY SÉBASTIEN BOURDON (1616-71), WHICH HANGS AMONG THE MAGNIFICENT TAPESTRIES IN GALLERY III AT BURLINGTON HOUSE. (Oil on canvas: 67½ by 102½ ins.) (Musée d'Arras.)

The rich and varied styles of painting predominant in France during "The Age of Louis XIV" are all well represented in the R.A. Winter Exhibition of that name, which opens to the public to-day (January 4), and continues at Burlington House until March 9. All the works in this magnificent exhibition have come from France. There are several works by two of the Le Nain brothers, Louis and Mathieu, while the third, Antoine, is not represented.

Little is known about the early training of these brothers, and as they may have collaborated it is often difficult to differentiate between their work. Both Bourdon and Le Sueur were strongly influenced by Poussin, and like him they painted classical landscapes largely as a setting for their figure compositions. Claude, however, had a far deeper feeling for nature, and for him the legend often served merely as a pretext to paint a classical landscape.

AT BURLINGTON HOUSE: GEORGES DE LA TOUR AND OTHER FRENCH MASTERS.



"A GROUP OF CAVALRY OFFICERS," BY JOSEPH PARROCEL (1646-1704), WHO SPENT EIGHT YEARS IN ITALY AND BUILT UP A REPUTATION AS A PAINTER OF BATTLES. (Oil on canvas : 43½ by 71½ ins.) (Musée des Beaux-Arts, Tours.) (Photograph by Giraudon.)



"THE BATTLE OF CONSTANTINE WITH MAXENTIUS," A VIVID COMPOSITION BY CHARLES LE BRUN (1619-1690), IN "THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV" EXHIBITION AT THE R.A. (Oil on canvas : 44½ by 66½ ins.) (Musée de Château-Gontier.) (Photograph by Giraudon.)



"ST. JOSEPH IN THE CARPENTER'S SHOP" : ONE OF THE NINE WORKS BY GEORGES DE LA TOUR (1593-1652) IN THIS EXHIBITION. (Oil on canvas : 53½ by 40½ ins.) (Musée du Louvre.)



"THE HURDY-GURDY PLAYER," AN EARLY WORK BY DE LA TOUR WHICH WAS FOR LONG ATTRIBUTED TO VARIOUS SPANISH ARTISTS. (Oil on canvas : 63½ by 41½ ins.) (Musée de Nantes.)



"ST. JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL," A SIGNED PAINTING BY DE LA TOUR, WHOSE WORK WAS ONLY RE-DISCOVERED. (Oil on canvas : 36½ by 31½ ins.) (Musée de Nantes.)



"LANDSCAPE WITH THE TEMPLE OF THE SIBYL AT TIVOLI," BY CLAUDE LORRAINE (1600-1682). (Oil on canvas : 38½ by 53½ ins.) (Musée de Grenoble.)



"LANDSCAPE WITH DIOGENES," A HEROIC LANDSCAPE PAINTED BY NICOLAS POUSSIN (1594-1665) IN 1648. (Oil on canvas : 63 by 87 ins.) (Musée du Louvre.)

An outstanding feature of the Royal Academy Winter Exhibition—"The Age of Louis XIV"—is to be found in Gallery II at Burlington House, where nine works by Georges de La Tour are hung. Only about fourteen paintings are definitely attributed to this master, whose work was revealed by a French exhibition in 1934. Georges de La Tour was born in Lorraine in 1593, and by 1618 he was established in the prosperous town of Lunéville, where he stayed for the rest of his life. It is thought that he visited the Lowlands or Italy at two periods when he is not recorded in Lunéville, where his patrons seem to have been in the bourgeois circles and not from the Court. Nothing

is known of La Tour's training, but his early work reflects the Dutch Caravaggist Terbrugghen, and he is considered "the most original and most moving of all the French artists who used the Caravaggesque idiom." Gallery VI contains classicist works by Claude and Poussin, the two outstanding masters of this period of French art. They are not very well represented in French provincial museums—from which the majority of the Exhibition has been selected—and works by them have been lent from the Louvre. Le Brun completed his artistic education in Rome, and on returning to France he soon gained Royal patronage and every post of importance in the arts.

SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY FRENCH DRAWINGS: AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY WINTER EXHIBITION.



"HEAD OF A MAN": A STRIKING DRAWING BY CHARLES LE BRUN (1619-90). (Black chalk: 13 by 10½ ins.) (Musée Fabre, Montpellier.)



"STUDY OF HANDS AND A FOOT," BY PHILIPPE DE CHAMPAIGNE (1602-74), WHO USED SUCH STUDIES FOR HIS PORTRAITS AND COMPOSITIONS. (Red chalk, heightened with white, on brown paper: 10½ by 15½ ins.) (Musée Atger, Faculté de Médecine, Montpellier.)



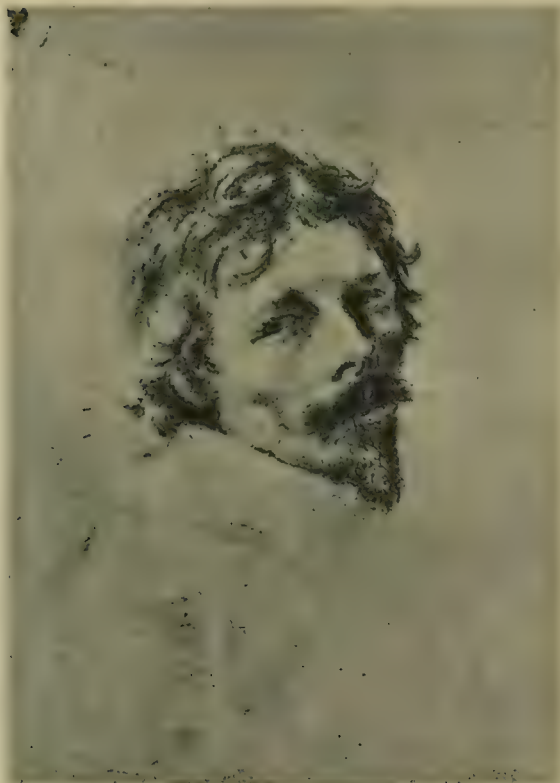
"ACHILLES AND THE CENTAUR," BY PIERRE PUGET (1622-94), BY WHOM SCULPTURE IS ALSO EXHIBITED. (Water-colour: 19½ by 13½ ins.) (Musée de Marseilles.)



"LANDSCAPE," BY CLAUDE LORRAINE (1600-82). SIGNED AND DATED 1673. (Black chalk, pen and brown ink, brown wash reinforced with gouache: 5½ by 9 ins.) (Musée Lorrain, Nancy.)



"LANDSCAPE WITH A DEAD TREE," BY GASPARD DUGHET, CALLED GASPARD POUSSIN (1613-75), WHO WAS THE BROTHER-IN-LAW OF NICOLAS POUSSIN. (Brown wash: 9½ by 15½ ins.) (Musée de Besançon.)



"PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST," BY CLAUDE MELLAN (1598-1688), WHO IS NOTED FOR HIS PORTRAIT ENGRAVINGS. (Black and red chalk: 5½ by 3½ ins.) (Musée d'Abbeville.) (Photograph by Giraudon.)



"ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST," BY JACQUES BELLANGE (ACTIVE 1602-17): ONE OF THE EARLIEST WORKS IN THIS WINTER EXHIBITION. (Pen and brown ink: 11½ by 5½ ins.) (Musée Municipal, Saint-Germain-en-Laye.) (Photograph by Giraudon.)



"PORTRAIT OF A MAN," BY ROBERT NANTEUIL (c. 1623-78), WHO WAS DESSINATEUR ET GRAVEUR TO LOUIS XIV. (Black and red chalk, heightened with white: 5½ by 3½ ins.) (Musée Vivienel, Compiègne.)

IN addition to paintings, sculpture, tapestries and other works of art the Royal Academy Winter Exhibition includes many fine drawings by artists of "The Age of Louis XIV." The Small South Room contains some twenty-five of the early drawings, by artists such as Jacques Bellange, Jacques Callot, Simon Vouet and Le Sueur. The chief glory of the Architectural Room is the drawings by Claude Lorraine and Nicolas Poussin,

[Continued opposite.

Continued.] while other artists, such as Sebastien Bourdon and Pierre Puget, are also well represented. There is a further group of drawings to be seen in Gallery IX, where some fine bookbindings from the Library at Versailles are also shown. The drawings provide a fascinating complement to the paintings, in making this Winter Exhibition a most interesting survey of French art from about 1615-1715.



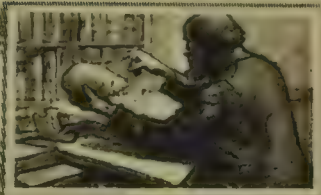
"I WELCOME YOU TO THE PEACE OF MY OWN HOME": HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN THE LONG LIBRARY AT SANDRINGHAM, AS SHE WAS SEEN BY MILLIONS DURING THE FIRST TELEVISION RELAY OF HER TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DAY BROADCAST.

On Christmas Day, 1932, King George V broadcast the first of the Christmas messages to the Commonwealth—and since then these Royal broadcasts have become an essential part of the celebrations in millions of English-speaking homes. This Christmas—twenty-five years later—history was again made when her Majesty's broadcast was televised for the first time. Seated at a desk in the long library at Sandringham, with photographs of her children

and Christmas cards in the background, the Queen spoke with an easy assurance and made the fullest use of the revolutionary medium of television to be really among her people at Christmas time. "I very much hope," she said, "that this new medium will make my Christmas message more personal and direct . . . I welcome you to the peace of my own home." Both the B.B.C. and I.T.V. relayed her Majesty's most impressive broadcast.



THE WORLD OF SCIENCE.



THE RIDDLE OF ANTLERS AND TUSKS.

By MAURICE BURTON, D.Sc.

THE antlers of deer present a puzzle not easy to solve. So does the tusk of a narwhal. Since writing about the narwhal some time ago, I have received a letter from a reader. He says he has been turning the subject over in his mind and puts forward a suggestion. He wonders whether it may be that the female narwhal does not



BEING BOTTLE-FED: A FAWN WHICH DRAWS THE CALCIUM FOR THE BUILDING OF ITS SKELETON FROM ITS FOOD, AND IN THE EARLY DAYS THIS MUST, OF NECESSITY, BE DERIVED FROM ITS MOTHER'S MILK, OR FROM THE MILK SUPPLIED BY A HUMAN FOSTER-PARENT WHEN THE MOTHER IS LOST.

normally carry a tusk because the calcium in her body is needed for the next generation.

There are two preliminary comments that can be made with little fear of contradiction. The first is that the female, whether she lays eggs or bears her young alive, must contribute heavily towards the future of her offspring. The young animal receives from both parents contributions towards the hereditary plan upon which its life will proceed. Over and above this, it needs body-building materials to carry it along until it is able to feed for itself. In the higher animals, at least, the young are unable to take food through the mouth until they have reached a fairly advanced stage, when the skeleton is already partially formed. Bone is built largely of calcium salts, and the further strengthening of the young skeleton is made possible by calcium contained in the food. The foundations of the developing skeleton must be laid before the first food enters the mouth, and there is only one source of supply, the maternal body. The female must therefore take in sufficient calcium to keep her own bones in condition and build a reserve to supply her future young. The male is exempt from the latter responsibility, so presumably has more to spare for antlers, tusks, and so on.

This seems logical enough, but, and here is the second comment, in biological study nothing is straightforward and there are many seeming illogicalities.

Since so little is known about narwhals, it is better to summarise what is known about antlers and hope it may throw some light, directly or indirectly, upon the subject of their tusks. The usual formula is: that antlers of the male deer are used primarily for fighting among themselves for possession of the females; and that the females select, or are attracted to, the males with the finest antlers.

One cannot be an expert in everything and there are many people more knowledgeable than myself in the matter of deer, but I must say that the stags I have seen fighting during the rut have always butted with the forehead. The antlers, if they come into play at all, which is seldom, do so because they happen to be on the brow. Certainly, there are photographs of stags with antlers interlocked, but there are many more photographs showing antlered and horned animals fighting by crashing together with the foreheads. As to the idea

that the female deer (hind or doe, as the case may be) is attracted by the male's antlers, I can only say that the general impression one gets is that she is quite indifferent to such charms. There is some justification, therefore, for looking for some other function for the antlers.

Among the lower aquatic animals there are many that take in calcium salts or other materials and lay them down as a skeleton, either internal or external. For some we can postulate an advantage gained, usually protective, in others no advantage can be seen, and in yet others the skeleton is cast soon after being laid down and is renewed, the process of building and rejecting being continuous. In these last, it is as though the animals cannot help taking in the calcium but lose no time in casting it out in solid form. If this view be correct, then we might expect to see something analogous in animals at the other end of the scale. Deer cast their antlers each year and grow a new set. While it is true that the antlers are present during the breeding season, this cycle of growth and rejection bears a superficial resemblance at least to what takes place in the particular lower animals mentioned. The analogy would not hold if the orthodox view about the function of the antlers is wholly correct, so we must examine such information as we have in the light of it.

The first thing that has been established is that a castrated stag grows no antlers. A stag that has sustained injury to the reproductive organs will grow imperfect antlers, or an antler on one side only.



THE REMAINS OF AN ANTLER OF A FALLOW DEER, THE END OF WHICH HAS BEEN CHEWED. THE STAGS AND BUCKS DROP THEIR ANTLERS ANNUALLY, BUT THESE DISAPPEAR AND, FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF THE CARIBOU, IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT IT IS MAINLY THE HIND AND HER DOES THAT CHEW THEM.



STAGS' GLORY: THE ANTLERS WHICH POSE A RIDDLE AS TO WHETHER THEY ARE MERELY ORNAMENTAL OR WHETHER THEY SERVE SOME USEFUL PURPOSE. IT IS KNOWN THAT THE RENEWAL OF THE ANTLERS MAKES AN ENORMOUS DRAIN ON THE STAG'S ENERGY.

Photographs by Neave Parker.

Often in such imperfect stags the antlers will be grown but the velvet will not be shed. This seems to suggest that a hormone from the reproductive glands provides the stimulus to antler-growth. Support for this is found in the fact that usually, when one antler is grown, it is on the side away from the injury to the glands. But even this is by no means invariable, so it is necessary to postulate that the action of the hormone is not direct.

The next thing we find is that sometimes a stag will fail to grow antlers, but not because of injury.

Such a stag is known as a hummel. The reason for this failure to grow the characteristic adornment is not known, but it is found that the hummel contends no less successfully with his rival males and breeds if anything more successfully than his fully-antlered congeners.

The third thing we know is that the females of some species of deer, notably the reindeer and caribou, carry antlers but that these are always less well-developed than in the males.

Fourthly, females of species in which normally only the males wear antlers may, but rarely do, grow antlers. These are always small and the velvet is not cast from them. Such females bear young, apparently quite successfully, and the theory put forward to account for the abnormality is that during pregnancy a progesterone (male hormone) is released from the corpus luteum in the ovary, in small quantity and for a brief period. This is Wislocki's hypothesis, and although reasonable enough it is still a hypothesis.

One of the corollaries of the casting of the skeleton in the lower animals is that the material extruded goes again into solution, in due course, and is then available to be taken up by future generations, to be deposited in solid form in their bodies. This is a further analogy, which should not be pressed too far, but is useful to keep in mind in studying the subject of antlers. After being shed, the antlers lie on the ground for a while before disappearing. Some may be picked up by trophy hunters, but mostly they are chewed by the deer themselves, the remains they leave being as likely as not finished off by rodents. One can find such antlers where deer are living, but it is not easy. Nor is it easy to find out whether stags or hinds are eating them. J. G. Millais, writing in 1907, of caribou, comments: "The females chew the points of every old horn they come across." This suggests that females especially chew them, but whether this is general is difficult to say.

Growth of antlers is affected by diet. In some areas where there is a rich calcium content in the soil, the antlers will be noticeably heavy as compared with those carried by members of the same species on soil less rich in calcium. Whatever the other implications, the evidence suggests a calcium cycle in the higher animals similar to that in the lower animals. We might say, therefore, that deer cannot help taking in calcium and do so more than most mammals. Or perhaps it would be more correct to say that their metabolism is such that they retain more than most mammals. Some calcium goes to build the skeleton and the superfluous goes, in the males especially, into the antlers. In the females it goes into either weakly-developed antlers and into supplying material for the bones of the young, or else, where the females wear no antlers, wholly into the young. Presumably something similar would obtain for narwhals and other animals with tusks.

This does not mean that any structures developed as the result of such a calcium cycle may not be put to use, either permanently for the lifetime of the individual, or temporarily. Even if the antlers, or tusks, do function as weapons or to attract the attentions of the female, such functions would appear to be strictly secondary, to say the least. A more basic function, in the deer at any rate, could be that the male in shedding his antlers makes available to the female a ready source of calcium.

PERSONALITIES AND OCCASIONS OF THE WEEK:

PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC EYE AND EVENTS OF NOTE.



CO-AUTHOR OF "THE FIRST ASCENT OF MONT BLANC": PROFESSOR GRAHAM BROWN. Professor Graham Brown is the co-author of "The First Ascent of Mont Blanc." In the review of this book in our issue of December 21 a photograph appeared incorrectly captioned as being of Professor Graham Brown. The other author of the book, a copy of which was presented to the Duke of Edinburgh at the Alpine Club Centenary Reception recently, is Sir Gavin de Beer.



A DISTINGUISHED JUDGE DIES: MR. JUSTICE LYNKEY. Mr. Justice Lynskey, who had been a Judge of the Queen's Bench Division since 1944, died on December 21 at the age of sixty-nine. He became well known as the Chairman of the Tribunal which in 1948 investigated allegations against Ministers and Government officials. Born and educated in Liverpool, he became a solicitor, and was later called to the Bar, taking silk in 1930.



A GREAT LEGAL CAREER: THE LATE SIR EDWARD ATKINSON. Sir Edward Atkinson, who was Director of Public Prosecutions from 1930 to 1944, died on December 26, aged seventy-nine. Educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Oxford, he was called to the Bar in 1902, and joined the South-Eastern Circuit. In 1929 he was appointed first Recorder of Southend-on-Sea. When appointed Director of Public Prosecutions in 1930, he brought very wide experience to this important office.



A FORMER HIGH COURT JUDGE: THE LATE SIR R. CROOM-JOHNSON. Sir Reginald Powell Croom-Johnson, a Judge of the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice from 1938 to 1954, died aged seventy-eight during the night of December 29-30. He was a Deputy Chairman of Somerset Quarter Sessions, and had been M.P. for the Bridgwater Division of the county. He was called to the Bar in 1907.



A NOTED AUTHOR AND BROADCASTER DIES: SR. ARTURO BAREA. Sr. Arturo Barea, the Spanish-born author, died on Dec. 24, aged sixty. Previously a broadcaster in Madrid, he came to Britain in 1939, and until his death had been giving a weekly talk for the B.B.C. to Latin America. His "The Forge" had a great success when published in 1941, and among his other well-known works is a study of Garcia Lorca, the Spanish poet.



A POPULAR BRITISH COMPOSER: THE LATE MR. ERIC COATES.

Mr. Eric Coates, well known as a composer of light music, died on December 21 at the age of seventy-one. Born in Nottinghamshire, he entered the Royal Academy of Music in 1906 with a scholarship for viola. After some years as an orchestral player, Eric Coates devoted himself entirely to composition, winning popularity with his songs, suites and marches. Among his most famous pieces was "The London Suite."



ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED: PRINCESS MARIE-ADELAIDE OF LUXEMBOURG AND COUNT CHARLES HENCKEL DE DONNERSMARCH. The engagement of Princess Marie-Adelaide of Luxembourg, second daughter of the Grand Duchess Charlotte, to Count Charles Henckel de Donnersmarch was announced on December 17, and above, the Princess and Count are seen in Luxembourg shortly after the announcement. The reigning Grand Duchess, Charlotte, succeeded in 1919.



A NOTED ACTRESS OF THE SILENT SCREEN DIES: MISS NORMA TALMADGE.

Miss Norma Talmadge, one of the most popular of the stars of the silent screen, died aged sixty on December 24. She was particularly successful in dramatic rôles in films such as "Ashes of Vengeance" and "The Passion Flower." Two other members of her family also became famous screen actresses. Miss Talmadge was married three times, and retired in the 'thirties. Her first film is said to have been made in half a day.



A SCHNEIDER TROPHY WINNER: THE LATE AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR J. BOOTHMAN. Air Chief Marshal Sir John Boothman, who won the Schneider Trophy outright for Britain in 1931, died aged fifty-six on December 29. During the last war he played an important part in reconnaissance work before D-Day and commanded the experimental establishment at Boscombe Down. His last appointment (1953-56) was Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Coastal Command.



AT THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT FOR A LONDON-MOSCOW AIR SERVICE: MARSHAL ZHIGAREV (LEFT) AND MR. D. ORMSBY-GORE.

An agreement between Britain and the Soviet Union for a London-Moscow air service was signed in London on December 19. It was signed by Marshal Zhigarev for Russia, and by Mr. D. Ormsby-Gore, and is to come into force after both sides have made investigations on technical matters.



A NOTED PLAYWRIGHT: THE LATE MR. JOHN VAN DRUTEN.

Mr. John van Druten, the well-known playwright, died on December 19 at the age of fifty-six. With the great success of his first play, "Young Woodley," written while he was teaching at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, he abandoned the law, for which he had been trained, for the theatre. Among his recent successes, both also directed by him, were "I Am a Camera" and "Bell, Book and Candle."

FROM THREE CONTINENTS: A NORTH SEA DISASTER AND OTHER NEWS.



A NEW LOOK FOR THE NIAGARA LANDSCAPE: AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE PROJECTED NEW BRIDGE TO GOAT ISLAND, CROSSING THE AMERICAN RAPIDS AND THE PROPOSED NIAGARA PARKWAY. IN THE DISTANCE RISES THE "SMOKE" OF THE FALLS.



DESTINED FOR THE NEW GERMAN FEDERAL NAVY: THE U.S. DESTROYER *ANTHONY* (2050 TONS) UNDERGOING AN OVERHAUL AT THE CHARLESTON NAVAL SHIPYARD. The West German Federal Navy, which has hitherto consisted of patrol boats, submarines and auxiliaries, is to be augmented with a number of escort vessels and destroyers from British and U.S. sources, as well as other vessels.



LOST WITH ALL HANDS DURING A GALE IN THE NORTH SEA: THE GLASGOW SHIP *NARVA*, WHICH WAS GOING TO THE AID OF ANOTHER BRITISH SHIP.

There were no survivors among the crew of twenty-eight of the 1991-ton *Narva*, which was lost in the early hours of December 22 during heavy weather in the North Sea, when sailing from Sweden to Aberdeen with a cargo of pulp. *Narva* was going to the aid of the

London coaster *Bosworth*, which had been holed and abandoned. *Narva* was within thirty miles of *Bosworth* when she herself sent out distress signals. Though the Norwegian vessel *Leda* was in contact with her when *Narva* disappeared, no survivors were found.



SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S PAINTINGS BEING UNPACKED IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS TO BE HELD IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

On December 23 thirty-five oil paintings by Sir Winston Churchill arrived in New York. They are to be shown in a series of exhibitions, the first of which opens in Kansas City on January 22. The paintings, which include landscapes, still lifes and interiors, have been valued at £35,000.



A FLOATING CINEMA IN THE GRAND MANNER: THE THREE-DECK-HIGH THEATRE OF THE CUNARDER *SYLVANIA*, WHICH RECENTLY PAID HER FIRST VISIT TO NEW YORK.

Sylvania, the youngest Cunarder, normally plies on the Canadian route, on which she made her maiden voyage last June. This December, however, she paid her first visit to New York prior to a Caribbean cruise. Her modern picture-theatre, here shown, seats 300 passengers.



VISITING A BRAZILIAN OUTPOST IN THE GAZA STRIP: MR. HAMMARSKJÖLD (IN DARK GLASSES) DURING HIS CHRISTMAS VISIT TO THE U.N. EMERGENCY FORCE. Mr. Hammarskjöld, the United Nations Secretary-General, spent Christmas in the Gaza Strip as the guest of General Burns. Before leaving for Cairo, where he had talks with President Nasser, Mr. Hammarskjöld visited some of the U.N. Emergency Force troops.

FROM FAR AND NEAR: BRITISH AIRCRAFT ACHIEVEMENTS AND OTHER ITEMS.



COMMEMORATING SOME 27,000 OFFICERS AND MEN WHO DIED DURING THE CAMPAIGN IN BURMA AND ASSAM: THE RANGOON MEMORIAL, IN THE TAUUKYAN WAR CEMETERY, NEARING COMPLETION. The Rangoon Memorial, which is to be unveiled on February 9, commemorates by name some 27,000 officers and men of the Commonwealth Land Forces who perished during the campaign in Burma and Assam and to whom the fortune of war denied the rites of burial or cremation customary to their faith.



TAKING TO THE AIR AT WEYBRIDGE ON ITS MAIDEN FLIGHT: THE VICKERS VISCOUNT 810 —A NEW MEDIUM-RANGE TURBO-PROP AIRLINER. On December 23 the new *Viscount* 810 made its successful maiden flight from the Vickers-Armstrongs airfield at Weybridge, Surrey. This new airliner, the fastest in its class in the world, can cruise at between 365 and 400 m.p.h., and is powered by Rolls-Royce *Dart* engines. The first *Viscount* 810s will go to the United States.



READY FOR THE INAUGURAL FLIGHT OF B.O.A.C.'S LONDON-NEW YORK SERVICE: THE BRISTOL BRITANNIA 312 TURBO-PROP AIRLINER AT LONDON AIRPORT. The British Overseas Airways Corporation inaugurated the first regular passenger-carrying service across the North Atlantic by a British aircraft, and the first by a turbo-prop-engined type, with the flight of the Bristol *Britannia* 312 from London on December 19. Travelling against headwinds of 100 m.p.h., the *Britannia* reached New York non-stop in 12 hours and 39 minutes. The return journey on December 22 took only 8 hours and 48 minutes. At present the B.O.A.C. London-New York service with *Britannias* is a weekly one.



(Left.) INTRODUCED BY LONDON TRANSPORT: THE BUS ELECTRONIC SCANNING INDICATOR —“BESI”—A DEVICE TO AID LONDON BUSES TO OVERCOME THE DELAYS CAUSED BY PROLONGED TRAFFIC HOLD-UPS. The delays caused by traffic hold-ups may be overcome by the introduction of “BESI” which is now being tried out on Route 74. This device will enable each bus on a route to transmit an identification number, which will be picked up by an “electronic eye” and passed on to the control panel.

(Right.) THE RECEIVING END OF “BESI”: THE CONTROL PANEL WHICH ENABLES OFFICIALS TO SEE THE POSITION OF ANY BUS, AND THE SITUATION OF THE ROUTE AS A WHOLE.



THE WORLD OF THE THEATRE.

MIDWINTER DREAMS.

By J. C. TREWIN.

ONCE more we have on old Hiems' thin and icy crown the odorous chaplet of sweet summer buds that is "A Midsummer Night's Dream." It was a pity that the weather missed its cue at the Old Vic première. It would have been the nicest contrast if we had come from a flickering snow-flurry into this idyll of Athens-by-Arden, moon-silvered on a night fit for any imperial nightingale, Philomel with melody. But it was just a gentle late December evening. And I have reluctantly to suggest that, three or four matters excepted, it is not more than a gentle "Dream," though sometimes it is on the edge of being an astonishing one.

Visually, let me say with enthusiasm, the effect is uncannily right. Uncannily, because so few directors can produce anything like the flaking silver of moonshine. Michael Benthall can, and does. And when Oberon and Titania meet in the heart of that green and silver glade, with the classical-romantic landscape falling away behind it, dim in distance, we get the true, the exciting *frisson*.

It was dispelled, I am sorry to say, as soon as Titania spoke. Joyce Redman, when happily cast, can touch us deeply: none will have forgotten her Solveig. But at the Vic première, though she looked like Titania, she could not voice the part, simply because she seemed to have little faith in Shakespeare. For Titania I think of a voice of crystal. Miss Redman's speaking lacked edge and shape, and I found myself remembering with regret the wavering ripple-and-shimmer of another Titania's hands at "Pale in her anger, washes all the air."

Throughout, the revival looked far better than it sounded, though here and there a speech, such as that of Margaret Courtenay's Hippolyta, "I was with Hercules and Cadmus once," would ring finely, and Derek Godfrey's Oberon, though without the ultimate magic, did not fret away his royal lines. Two parts carried the night for me. First, Coral Browne's Helena. She turned the "painted maypole" into a soulful, questing creature, bewildered by the complexity of life and love, and constantly surprising herself, as when she remembered how she and Hermia would sit "both warbling of one song, both in one key." The last four words startled Helena. "Both in one key," she proclaimed, her eyes wide, and in them the light of new and intricate discovery. Her whole existence appeared to be a muddle. She could simply be inquiring and wistful and hope for the best. I was never happier to know at last that a Helena would be safe with her Demetrius.

The other major performance was, and is, Paul Daneman's Quince, with his drooping moustache, his shaky aspirates, his indispensable spectacles, his air of cosy pleasure in the job, and the curious feeling he gives to me that, at any moment, he will lecture on the Theory of Tittlebats. This is all masterfully timed. Quince is just the daarin' man to be in control of those Thespian mechanicals who erupt so oddly in the Athens of Theseus. Derek Francis's stolid Snout-cum-Wall is as happy as any of the others in a useful group. The crown, of course, should be Frankie Howerd's Bottom the Weaver, who has "the best wit of any handicraft man in Athens." For me it is an average performance that made me wonder, exasperated, why the house was in stitches.

I am inclined to think that Mr. Howerd, who has long been known as a likable personage, need merely say "Pass the mustard" for his audience to be in a roar. The idea, I suppose, is that a distinguished variety comedian must be at once on the easiest terms

with Shakespeare. Believe me—and in spite of, say, Robey and Jay Laurier—that does not follow. Mr. Howerd has some agreeable ways. He has a basket full of beards, he develops a trick of dropping his sword as Pyramus, and he cannot begin his speeches when the courtiers are (discourteously) talking. A pleasant fellow; but he does nothing in particular with the Weaver, certainly not in the Wood scene or in the waking from that magical dream. Many of an older school of Shakespearians—Robert

stay among my memories. There is, too, a cheerful moment when Mr. Howerd's Bottom-Pyramus resembles a Greek vase-painting that has gone askew. And for once Oberon is allowed his magical dust, though he may seem to be using a pepper-pot, and the Immortals, at the last, scatter their field-dew in a scene beautifully-managed.

Elsewhere, the usual things, and some less usual, have been adorning the Christmas theatre, tinsel on the tree. Although a letter, which I dispute from first word to last, reached me on Christmas Eve with an assault upon Barrie's "sentimental inanity" (this derived from a television revival of "The Boy David"), I shall not cease to praise that now under-valued dramatist's technical assurance. "Peter Pan," whatever one says about its "mothering," is put together with immense skill, and all round me at the Scala the "juvenile auditory" sat upon the edges of its chairs. This is an unremarkable performance, but it has any amount of zest, and the players—an important point—do see that the story is told with lucidity and relish. (Hugh Miller has directed.) If Margaret Lockwood is not the feyest of Peters, she gets straight home to the audience, and Michael Warre, the Hook, does joyful discredit to Eton and Balliol, rolling his oaths as you can only if you spend your days and nights under the Jolly Roger. The Wendy (Julia Lockwood) is quite straightforward; Russell Thorndike's Smee reads his calico, Tinker Bell tinkles, crocodiles yawn, and the play that cannot grow up achieves another birthday. Many happy returns to it, as ever.

If I doubt whether Nicholas Stuart Gray's Christmas plays will last as long as "Peter Pan," that is not to say that I am unappreciative of their ingenuity, and the manner in which Mr. Gray has progressed. They will certainly be in the Christmas repertory for some time. The dramatist, who used to tell his tale fluently but with an odd lack of substance, has now become far more inventive. Clearly, he enjoys the decoration, and both "New Clothes for the Emperor" (Arts) and "The Imperial Nightingale" (Birmingham Repertory) show his craft. Whimsicality is out of fashion; but Mr. Gray manages it with much charm. Though his plays are said to be based upon Andersen, their matter is the dramatist's. From "New Clothes" we recall an amusingly bothered slave of the Ring (Alan Judd), and in "The Imperial Nightingale" there is a thoroughly dramatic final scene in which the Emperor of China (Kenneth Mackintosh) and the White Princess (Jane Wenham) play for the Imperial life. Both the fantasies are exceedingly well directed, in London by Stuart Latham and at Birmingham by Alan Bridges.

Annually, at the Players' underneath the Charing Cross arches, we go Victorian. This year Planché's "King Charming" returns to us from 1850, with its memories of Vestris, and a load of plot that the Players' cast shoulders lightly. You have to know your Shakespeare to be entirely at home with Planché. His echoes are outrageous, and his rhymes match ("pony" and "Taglioni"). Joan Sterndale Bennett is here the wickedest Queen that ever scorched a throne: she should get into a huddle with that other Queen of "Cymbeline."

At the Princes the Danish mimes and dancers from Tivoli at Copenhagen run through their amiable diversions at night, and "Noddy in Toyland" capers through the afternoon bill. I will return later to London's only West End pantomime of the season, and to such uncommon Christmas visitors as Aristophanes and Sheridan Le Fanu. "Is all our company here?"—"You were best to call them generally, man by man, according to the scrip."



THE "BASE MECHANICALS" IN THE OLD VIC PRODUCTION OF "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM": (L. TO R.) STARVELING (DANIEL THORNDIKE), SNOOT (DEREK FRANCIS), SNUG (JAMES CULLIFORD), QUINCE (PAUL DANEMAN), BOTTOM (FRANKIE HOWERD), FLUTE (RONALD FRASER). ASLEEP BEHIND IS TITANIA (JOYCE REDMAN).



THE QUARREL BETWEEN DEMETRIUS (JOHN HUMPHRY) AND HELENA (CORAL BROWNE), OVERLOOKED BY THE, TO THEM, INVISIBLE OBERON (DEREK GODFREY).

Atkins and Baliol Holloway, for example—have been both richer and truer.

Still, there is pleasure in the night's revels. Mr. Benthall and Mr. Bailey have staged the play to admiration, and I advise any collector not to miss Helena. This eagerly inquiring performance, moving from astonishment to astonishment, will

OUR CRITIC'S FIRST-NIGHT JOURNAL.

"LYSISTRATA" (Royal Court).—Aristophanes as translated by Dudley Fitts. (December 26.)

"A STRANGER IN THE TEA" (Arts).—Robert Eddison in a version of the story by Le Fanu. (December 26.)

"THE ANGELS"—IN THE JUNIOR COMPANY OF THE ROYAL BALLET'S DEBUT AT COVENT GARDEN.



"THE VIGOROUS" (DONALD BRITTON) IS SELECTED FOR IMMORTALITY BY THE ANGEL (YVONNE LAKIER) IN THE NEW CRANKO BALLET, "THE ANGELS," AT COVENT GARDEN.



AS THE ATTENDANT ANGELS EXPAND THEIR WINGS, THREE CHARACTERS (L. TO R.), "THE LYRICAL" (CLOVER ROOPE), "THE VIGOROUS" AND "THE STRIDENT" (ELAINE THOMAS) POSE.



THE CLIMAX OF THE BALLET "THE ANGELS": THE ANGEL, A DARK-BLUE FIGURE WITH BLAZING BLUE SEQUINS, SELECTS HER CHOICE FOR IMMORTALITY, "THE VIGOROUS," WHO IS HERE BEING LIFTED.



THE CHOICE MADE, "THE VIGOROUS" IS CARRIED UP INTO IMMORTALITY. THE MUSIC, WHICH IS BY RICHARD ARNELL, WAS CONDUCTED BY THE COMPOSER AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.

On Boxing Day the junior company of the Royal Ballet, which is now billed as "The Royal Ballet (formerly the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet)," made their first appearance at Covent Garden for a season of nine performances only. Their first performance opened with the ever-popular "Pineapple Poll" and continued with two novelties: "A Blue Rose" (music by Samuel Barber, choreography by Peter Wright, décor by Yolanda Sonnabend)—



THREE OF THE PRINCIPALS IN "THE ANGELS": "THE MORBID" (LEFT) (DONALD MACLEARY) AND "THE TERRIFIED" (MICHAEL BOULTON) LIFT "THE LYRICAL."

a pleasant and unpretentious suite of dances, linked by the passing of a flower; and an ambitious allegorical ballet by John Cranko (music by Richard Arnell and décor by Desmond Heeley) called "The Angels." In this last ballet, which was marked by ingenious and startling lifts and movements, the Angel, who is a figure of light, gives life to her creations, sets them in motion and counteraction, and eventually selects one for immortality.

Photographs by Houston Rogers.

NOTES FOR THE NOVEL-READER.

THE CHOICE OF THE WEEK.

THOUGH nowadays "descriptive writing" in fiction is in bad odour, it has at least one devotee with a special licence. "Among the Dahlias," by William Sansom (Hogarth Press; 15s.), yet again recalls the proverb about looking over a fence and stealing a horse; for though this writer is incomparable at setting scenes, and much less good at making things happen in them, and nobody fails to mention it, not even the highbrows seem to mind. For my part, I can't help thinking it a flaw, especially in his novels: and even to some extent in sketches, where the horse is only a pony. Take, for instance, this opening:

Under low clouds, on a rainy night, train-whistles blew loud over Brondesbury. All sounds of shunting, buffer-clinks, all exerted accelerations of steam blew up louder on the resonant air. The night was loud with trains.

In a house above the tracks a man still young, but not young enough for him, stood at his open kitchen window and listened.

Can the story live up to that? Obviously it can't, since nothing more was required; and the rest of it, a memory of first love in Spain, seems merely an adjunct—lively and striking in its way, but still a come-down. Granted, this is the extreme case. But there is a similar hitch in the title-story, though much later. A typical little man "in fire-places" is enjoying his lunch-hour stroll through the zoo—almost empty, and dazzlingly evoked—when he meets a lion. And the tale stops dead. To be sure the author collects himself, and moves it on again to a not unworthy finale; but essentially he was through. He had made his point—the point of exposure by crisis—at the very instant of the encounter. An identical, though less *outré* "moment of truth" awaits another typical little man in "To The Rescue": this time with a proper coda, but, on the other hand, only after a long, minute and dazzling evocation of Dungeness. Yet it is fair to own that when the setting does yield to plot, in conjugal serio-buffooneries like "A Man of Parts" and "The Dangerous Age," one would like it back again. Perhaps the best stories are those where nothing even attempts to happen: "Cat up a Tree," with its "wild, glassy morning—all winds and glitter" and its racing firemen, or "Eventide," which is just an empty pub starting to fill up. Though one can always relish the crematorium and the Espresso bar simply as bravura, once the habit is formed, and when the artist is so agreeable. For he has something besides virtuosity: a warm though bantering human kindness, quite unlike the "compassion" of the tough and drab school.

OTHER FICTION.

"A Houseful of Love," by Marjorie Housepian (Gollancz; 13s. 6d.), threatens to wallow in human kindness, but is, in fact, something you shouldn't miss; for it may never be duplicated, unless by the same hand. Here we have a picture of Armenian *émigrés* in New York in the year 1929, clearly drawn from memory. The narrator, then a little girl, is the doctor's daughter, and niece to the intractable Uncle Pousant, who presides with furious moustaches and hurtling frying-pans over a gargantuan cult of good food. Both house and restaurant are terminal points on the route from Smyrna or Antioch. Often the immigrants prove to be related. They are all big eaters and passionate sentimentalists, swapping nostalgia for the old country (to which "none but the demented would return") and the ancient homeland they never saw. Few are at all prosperous. This is hardly a novel; it is a recreation of the past, full of matter, very intelligent and funny.

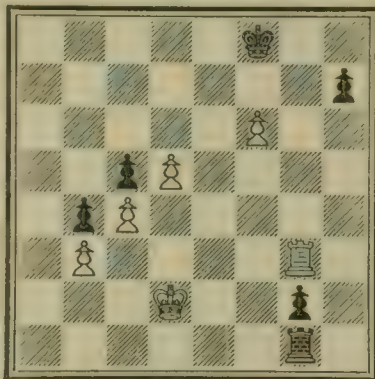
Whereas "Thomasina," by Paul Gallico (Michael Joseph; 15s.), is indeed a story. It is about a veterinary surgeon in Argyll who loathes pets and doesn't believe in God, and whose motherless little girl has an adored cat. Thomasina sickens. Andrew MacDhui has her chloroformed. The child mentally kills her father and begins to die. But it all comes right, thanks to the Red Witch of Glen Ardrath—a strange girl living alone in the woods, hearing angel voices and attracting wild creatures to her Mercy Bell. The account of Thomasina's murder, resurrection and divine avatar is in her own words. What more could one ask?

"The Rich Die Hard," by Beverley Nichols (Hutchinson; 15s.), presents the orthodox country house—except that Broome Place is a scene of great wealth and exquisite connoisseurship, heavenly gardens and unique masterpieces. It belongs to the financier Andrew Lloyd, a man of glittering charm with a wife like a Madonna. Their week-end guests include a second financier of slicker quality, whose wife has had her face lifted. And the corpse is that of the tipsy, Rubens-like Miss Larue. It appears to be suicide, but there is also a note suggesting blackmail. Hence Scotland Yard; while the Pickwickian little Mr. Green turns up by chance as a garden-viewer. A tale rich in patina, leisurely in gait, yet full of suspense: though there are weak points when all is out.

CHESS NOTES.

By BARUCH H. WOOD, M.Sc.

THIS week's episode, from a league match between two young players, illustrates a number of seldom-considered aspects of chess.



White had obviously played for this position with a fair degree of equanimity. He is now all ready to play K-K2, K-KB2 and R×P, with a fairly safe draw; but . . .

1. R-QR8
White's face went very red; it is certain he had not anticipated this at all. For a few minutes, obviously, he thought the game was lost. (Time shortage aggravated the tension; each player had to make his next eight moves in as many minutes.)

Now if 2. R×P, then 2. . . . R-R7ch and 3. . . . R×R. Against any other move, Black can play P-Kt8(Q) winning rook for pawn.

But, glory be, White sees a chance!

2. P-Q6!
Now it was Black's turn to go red. If 2. . . . P-Kt8(Q), then 3. R×Q, R×R; 4. P-Q7 and neither Black's rook nor his king can get at the queening square. Black could draw by perpetual check (R-Kt7, Kt6, etc.) as, if White's king approaches the checking rook too closely, the latter can go to the queen's file. Black, whose team needed a win, plays

2. K-K1
3. R-Kt8ch K-B2?
3. . . . K-Q2 is sounder: 4. P-B7, R-KB8.
On 4. . . . K×R; 5. P-Q8(Q)ch, K-B2; 6. Q-K7ch, would have won by a choice of means.

4. P-Q7 P-Kt8(Q)
5. R×Q R-R1
6. R-Kt7ch K×P
7. R×P K-Q1
8. K-K3 K-Kt3

With about a minute left on each player's clock, White now, to his captain's horror, offered a draw which was accepted with alacrity. He had seen only 9. R-K7, K-B3; 10. R-R7, etc., with repetition.

We can sympathise with anybody who has believed for some moments that his game was lost, only to find himself, a few moves later, not only alive still but with winning prospects. Early in your career, this sort of thing leaves you limp as a rag. With experience comes *sang-froid* and the ability to revert from despair to calm calculation in a flash.

Here there was every reason for playing 9. R-K7, reaching the time control and securing, if necessary, a further hour's time for consideration of the situation.

In a match game, with the team captain at his elbow, I don't think any player should offer a draw without consulting his captain. This is an "aspect" worthy of a good debate: to what extent should a captain instruct?

Actually, I believe White has a win or, at worst, excellent winning prospects after 9. R-K7, K-B3; 10. R-K8! R×P; 11. R-QB8. Now since *defending* the attacked pawn by 11. . . . R-K2ch; 12. K-B4, R-K4 would lose by 13. R-KB8ch, Black must try counter-attack instead: 11. . . . R-QR2; 12. K-K4, R-R6; 13. K-Q5, R×P; 14. K×P (*threatening* 15. R-QKt8), R-Kt8; 15. R-K8! P-Kt6; 16. K-Kt5, P-Kt7; 17. R-K2, and White's king, screened from checks, can shepherd the pawn to queening.

FROM THE HISTORY OF GLASTONBURY ABBEY TO A BOOK OF RECIPES.

MANY people know that the Abbey of Glastonbury is alleged to have been founded by Joseph of Arimathea, who is also supposed to have planted the Holy Thorn, which flowered on Christmas Day. Others may remember that Joseph is said to have brought with him the Holy Grail, the chalice used by Our Lord at the Last Supper. But few indeed will be aware that there is strong reason for believing that Glastonbury was King Arthur's mystic isle of Avalon, or that the King, who was not merely a legendary figure, may well have been buried there. All this, and much more, comes into Mr. Geoffrey Ashe's "King Arthur's Avalon" (Collins; 18s.), one of the most fascinating essays in research you could hope to meet.

According to Mr. Ashe, Glastonbury "is a national shrine, standing for the creative reconciliation of races and provinces. Here, says the legend, they buried Arthur, the human symbol of British unity against the Saxon invaders. Here was the original haven of the Faith which made the country a single realm after the interval of Saxon division. Here the Britons and Saxons first learned to live at peace, and the vision of the United Kingdom was born. Here, in the Abbey's writing-room, the traditions of all the British Isles flowed together to engender a common consciousness." These are large claims, and I am not quite sure that Mr. Ashe has made them out, but his historical deductions are most convincing. Glastonbury Tor, he argues, was originally a Celtic burial-place. Soon after the Roman Conquest, a prosperous Levantine Christian established his household on the isle. Later still, the site was taken over by a group of hermits, and its reputation for sanctity caused the British leader Arthur, "a Romanised Dumnonian gentleman," to ask to be buried there when he had received a mortal wound in his last battle. That seems to be the best synthesis of the confused mass of early traditions. But the Abbey and its abbots certainly played a large part in the life of the kingdom throughout the Middle Ages—indeed, until Henry VIII had Abbot Whiting hanged at the Abbey gates, and the lands fell to "little Jack Horner." The last of the Glastonbury monks was one Austin Ringwode, who lived on in a nearby cottage until 1587. On his death-bed he prophesied: "The Abbey will one day be repaired and rebuilt for the worship which has ceased; and then peace and plenty will for a long time abound." Its fulfilment still seems a long way off. As to the Grail, Mr. Ashe regards it not as one of the most precious of Christian relics, but as a pre-Christian talisman which developed into a kind of Gnostic myth. It may interest Mr. Ashe to know that there is a family in the West Country which claims to possess the Grail—the authentic chalice—and showed it to a clerical friend of mine not long ago. So, as Mr. Ashe writes, "the afterglow of the vision endured." His book is profoundly satisfying.

I wish I could say the same of Sir Alfred Munnings's "Ballads and Poems" (Museum Press; 30s.). I have always admired Sir Alfred's paintings, together with his robust defence of traditional values against the excesses of abstract nonsense. I could spend hours enjoying the little sketches which illustrate this book. But for Sir Alfred's poetry I am afraid that I have no time at all. True, he does not claim much for his verses—except that some of them have amused his friends on convivial occasions. Perhaps—though I should not like to think so—I am too like Queen Victoria, or too little convivial (as I sit here and now at my typewriter), to be so easily amused.

Let me turn to the important topic of food. "With Gusto and Relish" (Deutsch; 15s.) is the suitably Dickensian title of a book of recipes by Lord Westbury and Donald Downes. The authors live in Rome, and that no doubt is why they give a special section to "pasta and its family," but very few people in this country will object to that. (Very few, too, will hit the right derivation of *spaghetti alla puttanesca*, and that is perhaps as well!) The introductory notes are excellent. Here is some advice from an old gentleman at a Food and Wine Society dinner: "There comes a relatively early age when love gradually fades out, but—and remember this well—if you choose your meals with a little care, eating is a far greater and more durable pleasure than love. Look at me! At eighty-two I can still eat three times a day, while even the memory of love is dim." Appreciation of the recipes themselves must be left to individual readers.

As a writer on exotic and esoteric dances, Miss Beryl de Zoete has long held the gorgeous East in fee. "Dance and Drama in Bali" which she wrote together with Walter Spies, is well known, and now she has given us "Dance and Magic Drama in Ceylon" (Faber; 36s.). The publishers rejected the title originally chosen for this book, "The Thunder and the Freshness," a quotation from the letters of Keats. But it exactly evokes, as she says, "the thunder of the drumming in that hour of dawn when the scent of the flower-offerings spreads through the cool courts of the Dalada Maligawa." The photographs, and a magnificent coloured dust-jacket, match the beauty of the author's descriptions.

E. D. O'BRIEN.



"FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA": AN R.A.F. *SHACKLETON* DROPPING CHRISTMAS SUPPLIES TO THE BRITISH OCEAN WEATHER SHIP *WEATHER WATCHER* FAR OUT IN THE STORM-SWEPT ATLANTIC.

The British Ocean Weather Ship *Weather Watcher*, with her crew of fifty-three, spent Christmas far out in the Atlantic, some 500 miles north-west of Ireland. During the week-end before Christmas an R.A.F. *Shackleton* flew out to act as Father Christmas to *Weather Watcher*, and in stormy weather dropped gifts and seasonal supplies close to the vessel—just avoiding the temptation of dropping them down the funnel! August 5, 1957, marked

the tenth anniversary of the introduction of the British Ocean Weather Ships, of which there are now four. They are on duty at four Atlantic Ocean weather stations, in rotation with French and Netherlands vessels, spending 30 to 36 days at sea, and 10 to 21 in harbour at Greenock, Scotland. In addition to their meteorological work, the ships' duties include navigational aid to aircraft in flight, limited air traffic control and air-sea rescue operations.

"FROM SAIL DRIVEN WOODEN WALLS" TO H.M.S. VANGUARD: A PICTORIAL



1. THE LAST THREE-DECKER TO LEAVE HARBOUR AS A SEA-GOING SHIP: H.M.S. VICTORIA, LAUNCHED IN 1859. ONE OF HER TWO FUNNELS IS VISIBLE BETWEEN THE MAIN- AND THE FORE-MASTS.



5. THE FIRST SEA-GOING TURRET SHIP: H.M.S. MONARCH. SHE WAS LAUNCHED IN 1868 AND WAS ALSO THE FIRST BRITISH SHIP WITH 12-IN. GUNS.



9. ONE OF THE FIRST TWO BRITISH BATTLESHIPS TO CARRY BREECH-LOADING GUNS: H.M.S. COLOSSUS, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN 1882.



13. ONE OF THE LAST COAL-BURNING BRITISH BATTLESHIPS: H.M.S. IRON DUKE, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN 1912.

A notable addition to the existing books about British warships is "British Battleships, 1860-1950," by Dr. Oscar Parkes, which was recently published by Seeley Service. In this magnificently produced comprehensive history of Britain's capital ships during the critical years since 1860, Dr. Parkes, who was from 1918 to 1935 Editor of "Jane's Fighting Ships," gives not only detailed information about the ships themselves but also the background



2. "THE FIRST SEA-GOING IRON-HULLED IRONCLAD TO BE PUT AFLOAT": H.M.S. WARRIOR. SHE WAS COMPLETED IN 1861.



6. ONE OF THE FIRST SEA-GOING "MASTLESS" TURRET-SHIPS: H.M.S. THUNDERER, LAUNCHED 1872, IN WHICH SAIL WAS DISPENSED WITH.



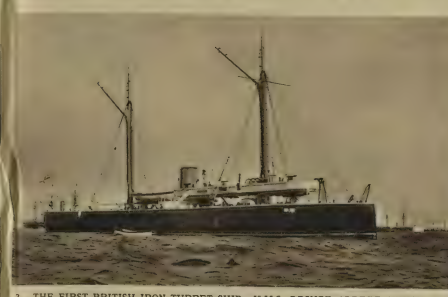
10. ONE OF THE FIRST BATTLESHIPS OF THE ROYAL NAVY TO HAVE STEEL ARMOUR: H.M.S. ROYAL SOVEREIGN, LAUNCHED IN 1891.



14. ONE OF THE FIRST BRITISH BIG SHIPS TO BE OIL-FIRED: H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH, LAUNCHED IN 1913.

naval and political story relating to them. Thus, besides discussing the structure and armaments of individual ships, which are illustrated fully with plans and photographs, there are also notes on the Sea Lords, the constructors and politicians who decided from year to year the form which the development of British battleships should take. As Dr. Parkes writes in his foreword, "No such history has ever before been attempted, and as no more such ships will

SURVEY OF THE BRITISH BATTLESHIP'S DEVELOPMENT FROM 1860 TO 1950.



3. THE FIRST BRITISH IRON TURRET SHIP: H.M.S. PRINCE ALBERT, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN 1864.



7. THE LAST BRITISH BATTLESHIP TO HAVE OVERALL ARMOUR AS A TRUE "IRONCLAD": H.M.S. DREADNOUGHT, LAUNCHED IN 1875.



11. THE NAVY'S FIRST BATTLESHIP TO BE FITTED FOR OIL-BURNING: H.M.S. MARS, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN 1896.



15. ONE OF THE FIRST TWO BRITISH WARSHIPS TO HAVE TRIPLE GUN MOUNTINGS: H.M.S. NELSON, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN 1925.

be built it forms a unique record of the prime units of naval force upon which the safety, might and majesty of Britain depended for nearly a century." This monumental work, which is sold at 6 guineas, took altogether some thirty years to compile. Introducing the book, Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten writes: "We are now in an interim age in which the aircraft-carrier has already replaced the capital ship and the task force the line of



4. THE FIRST BOX-BATTERY SHIP: H.M.S. RESEARCH, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN 1863. THE TWO BATTERY PORTS AND RECESSED HULL SIDES CAN BE SEEN.



8. ONE OF THE LAST TWO BRITISH BATTLESHIPS TO BE ARMED WITH MUZZLE-LOADING GUNS: H.M.S. AGAMEMNON, LAUNCHED IN 1879.



12. THE FIRST BRITISH WARSHIP WITH ALL-BIG-GUN ARMAMENT FOR LONG-RANGE FIRING: H.M.S. DREADNOUGHT, LAUNCHED IN 1906.



16. THE LAST OF A NOBLE LINE: H.M.S. VANGUARD, THE LARGEST WARSHIP EVER BUILT IN GREAT BRITAIN, LAUNCHED IN 1944.

battle... The guided missile launcher will replace the gun turret and the nuclear reactor the boiler furnace. Ships of the future will thus be different in shape as well as different in function; and the revolution thus represented will be just as fundamental as the change from sail driven wooden walls to steam-driven ironclads. This book therefore marks the end of an epoch—a great epoch—in British naval design and is the dawn of a new era."

THE WORLD OF MOTORING.

CAR OF THE MONTH—THE METROPOLITAN 1500 HARD-TOP.

By LIEUT.-COLONEL A. G. DOUGLAS CLEAVE, B.Sc., A.M.I.MECH.E.

FOR a proper appreciation of the Metropolitan 1500 one must consider its antecedents. Although it is manufactured by the Austin Motor Company it is American in its conception, for in 1952 the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation designed and built prototypes.

Various European manufacturers were considered for it but eventually its construction was entrusted to Austins, and production in quantity commenced early in 1954. Since then some 30,000 have been built, and have earned about 45,000,000 dollars.

Originally the 1200-c.c. A.40 engine was fitted, and the car was sold only in the U.S. and Canada, or to their nationals serving in the armed forces in Europe and elsewhere. Early in 1956, however, the 1489-c.c. B series engine was adopted and early in 1957 the restrictions on the sale of the car were removed.

Although, as stated, it is American in conception, it shows European influence in its styling, for which Italian sources were consulted, and in its integral construction of body shell and chassis, manufactured by Fisher and Ludlow, now a member of the British Motor Corporation. Certain other B.M.C. units are also used.

It would, however, be incorrect to consider the Metropolitan as another Austin model, for its performance and characteristics are quite individual.

So, of course, is its appearance, both as regards its lines and its colour schemes. The hard-top model tested has the lower part of the sides, and the hard-top, in Frost White, this being common to all models, and the upper parts of the sides and the bonnet in Sunburst Yellow, alternative choices being Berkshire Green or Mardi Gras Red.

Both front and rear wings extend down at the sides to just above the nave plates. This appears to restrict the lock of the front wheels to a slight extent, so that the turning circle is larger than would be expected.

The Metropolitan is a small car, its wheelbase of 7 ft. 1 in. and widest track of 3 ft. 9½ ins. being respectively 1 in. and 5½ ins. less than those of the Morris Minor, but it does not give an impression of smallness to the occupants. The adjustable front seat is of bench type and has the back divided, with each half hinged to tilt forward to give access to the occasional rear seat and to the boot.

While the boot offers considerable luggage space, access to it is only by tilting forward the back of the rear seat, which is provided with a lock. The spare wheel in a P.V.C. cover is carried externally on the rear panel of the boot, in typical American style, and so does not encroach on luggage space. On the test car the trim panels of the doors are in black and white P.V.C., and the seats are trimmed in wool and nylon cloth with P.V.C. borders and panels. The forward-opening doors are wide and give easy access to the seats. They carry winding windows and the off-side door has a private lock.

A driver of average stature is well suited by the driving position, and has quite sufficient elbow-, leg- and head-room, although the overall height is only 4 ft. 8 ins. The two-spoked 17-in. steering-wheel is, perhaps, set a trifle high for European taste, but it is clear of the driver's thighs. The positions of the pedals, sensible brake-lever floor-mounted on the driver's right, and steering-column gear-lever are well chosen.

Visibility is excellent. Both front wings are well in view through the flat single-panel screen—their crowns are above the level of the sloping bonnet—and astern the rear wings and the top of the spare wheel are plainly seen through the wide, curved, wrap-round window. Parking in a confined space is an easy matter, and one imagines that it was one of the considerations in the designer's mind.

The single-plate clutch is very smooth, and the gear-change easy, synchromesh being provided for second and top. As the ball-mounted lever has only three forward gears and reverse to select, its mechanism is less complicated than is the case with a four-speed box. It is commendably free from rattle.

As the weight, without fuel, is only 16½ cwt. the 1½-litre engine can give the car quite a lively performance. From rest 30 m.p.h. can be reached in 5 seconds, and 60 m.p.h. in 23 seconds. On first gear 25 m.p.h. and on second 45 m.p.h. are attainable without overstressing the engine. On top a maximum of 75 m.p.h. is possible, corresponding to nearly 5000 r.p.m., but one then feels that a higher gear could be an advantage, such as would be provided by the fitting of an overdrive.

It must be remembered, however, that the Metropolitan is designed for North American conditions, and while a top gear speed of 15.4 m.p.h. at 1000 r.p.m. is low by European standards it does allow the car to do most of its work on top. Indeed, the driver who dislikes gear-changing will find the top gear flexibility of the Metropolitan very much to his liking.

While the suspension is comfortable it is softer than on the average British car, and there is some vertical movement on bad roads, and even some pitching. At the same time there is less roll than one would expect in fast cornering, and on a give-and-take road an average speed of 50 m.p.h. does not strain driver or car.

Good steering and brakes obviously contribute to the ease of handling. The steering is almost neutral, but does not develop any oversteer. It is very light, quite precise, and has moderate self-centring action. The brakes only call for light pedal pressure and proved very efficient, without producing symptoms of fade.

In its appointments the car is also unusual in that a Pye radio, cigarette lighter and a powerful heater with thermostatic control are standardised. The screenwiper has two blades but is not self-parking. It must be recorded that an appreciable amount of noise was noticeable from wiper and heater motors, which is, perhaps, a tribute to the general quiet running of the car and the low level of wind noise. The heater control also allows cool fresh air to be admitted, the air intake being across the scuttle to the rear of the bonnet.

The speedometer is located in front of the driver and incorporates fuel gauge, and red warning lights for oil pressure, dynamo no-charge, and headlamp main beam. The foot-operated dipper switch is well placed. A green warning light on the fascia indicates that the flashing turn indicators incorporated with the side and tail lights are functioning.

Other fittings include an ashtray in the top centre of the fascia, and twin sun-visors, between which the rear view mirror is located, sufficiently high up not to form any obstruction to forward vision.

The bonnet is hinged at its rear edge and secured by two fastening devices at the front, one being a safety catch. It is not counter-balanced but is easily lifted, and a stay holds it well open for engine adjustments to be carried out. Oil filler, dipstick, carburettor and ignition distributor are readily accessible.

A filler of useful size allows quick replenishment of the 8½-gallon petrol tank without blowback. The fuel consumption proved to be a fraction over 30 m.p.g. in test conditions, and should be rather better in ordinary use; a leisurely driver might well approach 35 m.p.g.

Altogether the Metropolitan 1500 hard-top is an unusual but pleasing small car, and its qualities should appeal to many drivers in this country. Its basic price is £475 and the purchase tax, £238 17s., making a total of £713 17s.

MOTORING NOTES.

As from January 1 Switzerland, Sweden and West Germany have joined Austria in abolishing Customs documents for the cars of tourists.

For the Monte Carlo Rally which starts on January 21 there are 134 British entrants out of a total of 342. The B.M.C. have entered nine cars, a Morris Minor (Pat Moss and Ann Wisdom), three Rileys (Mrs. Nancy Mitchell and Mrs. Joan Johns; J. Bremner and A. Oldsworth; R. and E. Brookes), three Austin 105s (Jack Sears and Ken Best; W. Shepherd and J. W. J. Williamson; Mike Couper, P. Wilson and P. Fillingham), a Wolseley 1500 (John Gott and C. Tooley), and an Austin 35 (J. Sprinzel and W. Cave). Entries from the Standard Motor Co. are four T.R.3s (John Waddington and Michael Wood; Maurice Gatsonides and Marcel Becquart; P. Hopkirk and J. Struthers Scott; Annie Soisbault and Patricia Ozanne) and three Standard Ensigns are sponsored by the manufacturers and entered by the Army (Lieut.-Colonels B. Crosby and McGill; Majors Banham and Parry; Captains Raper and Herbert).

A new cross-Channel car ferry, the *Compiègne*, at present building at Rouen for French Railways, will go into service between Dover and Calais on May 30. It will accommodate 164 cars on a large car deck aft and two car decks forward. Cars will drive on and off the ship at Dover and Calais.

Another new ferry for the Dover-Ostend service will be launched by Belgian Marine in February and put into service on June 1. Its double-deck car hold will provide space for 160 cars.

The withdrawal of the Maserati company from racing, despite their numerous successes during the 1957 season, will greatly reduce interest in the big International events of 1958. The reason given for the withdrawal is the high cost of preparing, maintaining and running a team of racing cars.



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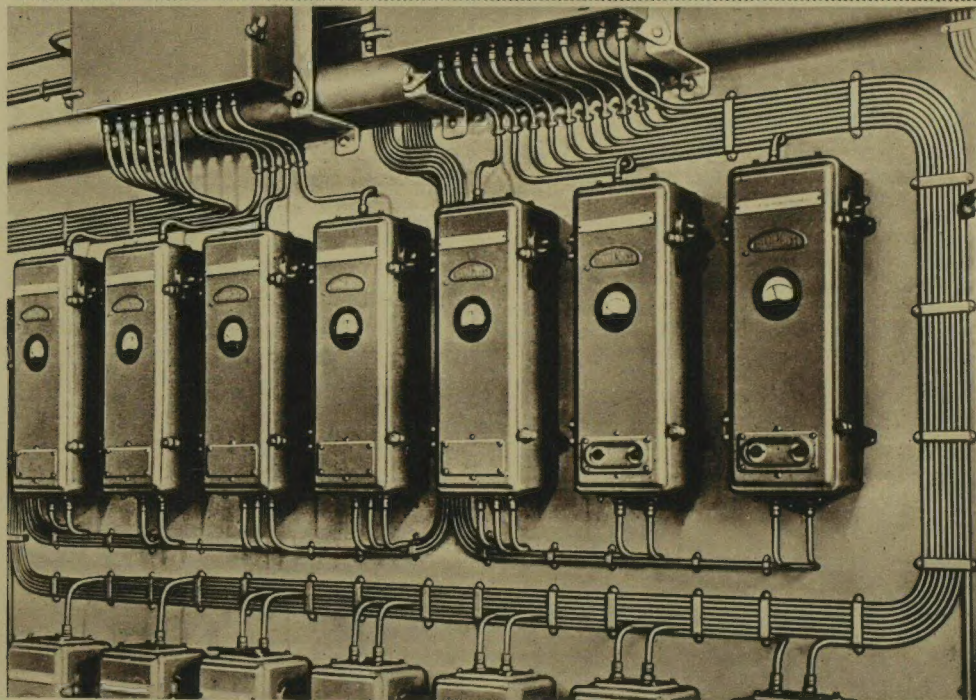
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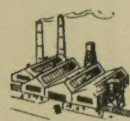
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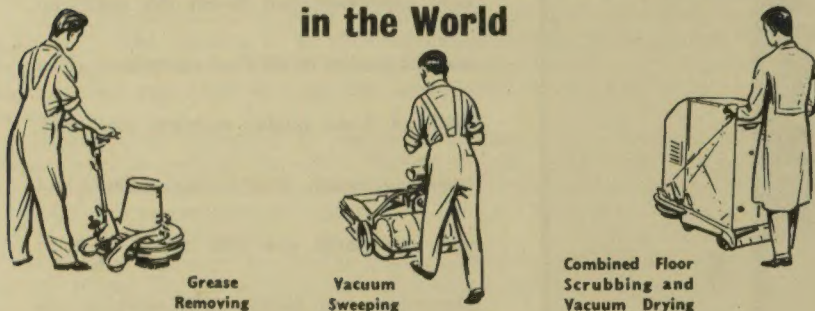


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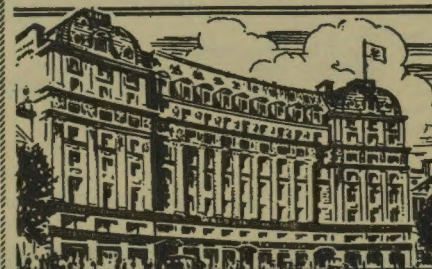
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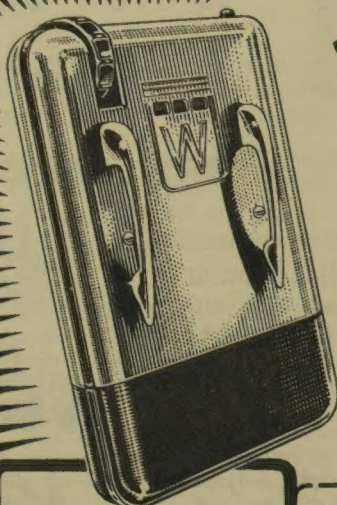
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